

LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ADMIRAL RODNEY HOTEL, HORNCastle
29 MARCH 2011
MINUTES

Present 48 members and officers

Apologies None received

Minutes of 2010 AGM Approved. No matters arising.

Hon Chairman's address (Andrew Chick)

- Thanks to all who have helped the Club over the past year in whatever capacity.
- Anyone who is interested in helping in the future would be very welcome.
- Steve Keightley has been replaced by two recorders: John Badley (S) and John Clarkson (N) and the Rare Breeding Birds recorder Phil Espin.
- The Annual Report for 2009 has been published and delivered. Thanks to the various editors. The 2010 report is underway and will follow the same format, with BTO data being integrated into the species accounts for the commoner species. The cost of publication is not completely covered by subscription income.
- No grant was made to members for conservation programmes this year. Future bids welcome.
- Over 60 000 records added to the data base; thanks as ever to the Jennings.
- Support for the Grantham Peregrine project and webcam is welcome.

Hon Treasurer's report (John Watt)

- Full details of the accounts were circulated.
- Expenditure has exceeded subscription income – main item is the Annual report (£7.50/copy).
- Subscription income is more or less static; sales are up by 77%; data report income is up 95%.
- All outstanding debtors now settled.
- Bank interest is currently minimal but £21k will be put into a high interest account for a year.
- Meeting costs have risen this year.
- A grant of £300 was made to Alex Lees towards the costs of his research into wintering sites for Spoon-billed Sandpipers.
- A list of payments from members for the overdue Atlas (funded by a £20k grant from LCC) has been compiled and passed to the Chairman for action – possible refund.

Report from outgoing Secretary (Janet Eastmead)

- One letter received from ELDC refusing permission for the realignment at Donna Nook. However their position has probably now changed.
- A letter from Partnership for Renewals, informing us that the application for a wind turbine at North Sea Camp has been withdrawn.
- We have received 19 requests for data: 15 professional, 2 from members and 2 from conservation organisations. Total revenue is £1 704. We now have 13 years of data, with approx 47k items p.a.

Report from Hon Membership Secretary (Mike Harrison)

- Current membership now at an all time high of 304.

- There is to be a change to collecting subscriptions by direct debit next year. This will be administered by LWT. John Watt gave the set-up costs as £500 and an annual cost of £250 – approx £1 per member. This should result in greater efficiency and savings in processing cheques etc.

Report from Sales Officer (Bill Sterling)

- 2008 Annual Report is all but sold out; the print run was 300.
- The 2009 report has been well received; thanks to RSPB for allowing sales at Frampton and to the LWT for sales at Gibraltar Point and Far Ings.

Report from recorders (John Clarkson, John Badley and Phil Espin)

- The new email addresses seem to be working well. Records are being received as well as requests for help with identification and conservation issues.
- Request for all members to use this new system when submitting their records, especially for data on breeding birds, where we have struggled in the past to gain a full and accurate picture.
- The boundary between N and S runs from Lincoln to Ingoldmells, but extra-limital records are passed from one recorder to the other if necessary.
- Guidance on what constitutes “rare” in local and national contexts will be posted on the website. PE would welcome comments.

Election of Officers

- Andrew Chick to continue as Chairman with responsibility for the Annual Report and website.
- Robert Carr to be the new Secretary (proposed by Stuart Britton and seconded by Terry Whalin).
- Mike Harrison to continue as Membership Secretary (proposed by Bill Sterling and seconded by Paul French).
- The new auditor to be Caroline Chick (proposed by Dean Eades and seconded by Colin Jennings). Thanks are due to outgoing auditor Wendy Beasley for her contribution.

Progress of the Atlas

- Andrew Chick reported that 100 spiral bound copy would be produced within the next 12 months.

Future of the newsletter

- Momentum has been lost with the production. Questions from members as to whether the newsletter is needed as the information is now readily available on the website.
- It was pointed out that not all members have internet access.
- Suggested that perhaps there should only be two mailings p.a.
- Resolved that a question be included with the next mailing asking for those who wished to continue to receive this to identify themselves.

AOB

- Peter Overton (BTO rep, W Lincs) drew members’ attention to the joint LBC/BTO conference at Riseholme on 16 April. All very welcome. Programme will include talks by two BTO reps (PO and PE) as well as a presentation by John Badley on Frampton RSPB. Details are on the website.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 22h25.

RJF Carr, Secretary.