

MINUTES OF LBC COMMITTEE MEETING, 5th SEPTEMBER 2017 7.30 pm

Present: Phil Espin, Phil Hyde, John Watt, John Clarkson, Bill Sterling, Andrew Chick, Ian Macalpine-Leny, Mike Harrison and Robert Carr.

Apologies for absence: none.

Minutes of previous meeting: Agreed to be a true record.

Matters arising: PE advised that the project with Buzzard tracking and the BTO had not taken place. Two emails to the organiser, Greg Conway, had gone unanswered so PE let the matter lapse. This was a shame. JRC told us that Nigel Lound is now on the records committee and their work is going very well, perhaps as well as it ever has.

Officers' reports:

Treasurer: JW's report had been circulated; he drew attention to low publication sales (see WS report) but data sales via the GLNP are holding up well. There had been fears expressed about the future of the LNPs after Natural England cut their funding, but in Lincs, these seem ill-founded.

JW is concerned about managing the account: following the closure of the Woodhall Spa branch, the Horncastle one has closed and the nearest branch is in Boston. Also many organisations do not accept cheques and there was some discussion about using a debit card, although only one signatory might be needed. JW will investigate further.

Secretary: Following a post from Jim Wright, RC had approached The Stanhope who do have their hall available for some Saturdays in March. However the committee were united in wishing to continue the current arrangements: Tuesday evening, in March, at The Admiral Rodney. MH pointed out that wheelchair access to the first floor has been improved – there is now a ramp.

Following a meeting with Dominic Mitchell of Birdwatch, a copy of the Bird Report was passed on for a possible review. The organisation will be added to the list of complimentary copies sent out in future. This led to a discussion about what we might do with the many spare report copies we have. More free copies could be sent to various local and national bodies and more could be sold, perhaps at Frampton RSPB where there are currently no copies. AC will contact Keith Seaton to build a suitable sales cabinet for Frampton visitor centre, should John Badley agree. WS will package up some complete runs and these could be photographed and offered for sale on social media.

RC tendered his resignation as secretary as he is moving out of the county.

Sales secretary: WS's report had been circulated; sales are at an all-time low! Some discussion had already taken place on this topic in JW's and RC's reports; further suggestions included WS contacting LWT and other RSPB outlets directly. AC regretted that he had not used the list of those who had contacted the GLNP for data searches to offer them copies; he would try to do this when time allowed. AC would also contact Charlie Barnes at the GLNP to see if a pdf advertising the LBC and the Bird Report could be sent out in the zip file along with the data. There was some discussion about using a part of the LWT stand at the Birdfair; finding sufficient volunteers would be an issue. It was decided the stand of Nicholas Watts of Vine House Farm might be a better approach: MH will do this.

Membership secretary: No exact numbers are available but we have about 240 paid-up members. We have had no new members recently; numbers have reached a plateau.

County recorder South: PH advised that he had received an email from Andrew Henderson about his role as in producing the Report. All agreed that Andrew does a valuable job to a very high standard; various suggestions were made to ease Andrew's load and PE and PH will approach him to try and find the best way forward.

AC said that some progress on the next report has been made but we are held up by the lack of data from the RSPB for the south of the county. AC will approach John Badley directly.

PH mentioned the email from the BBRC which spoke of a long delay in getting the historical county descriptions delivered.

County recorder North: JC also very pleased with processing of LBRC records.

Webmaster: AC has made little progress on web matters but hopes to rectify this in the coming months. The Twitter feed is very active but fewer images are being uploaded as birders increasingly use social media, so worries about the album are probably groundless.

A link to BirdTrack would be a great asset for the forum but doesn't seem likely at the present.

Chairman: GLNP has expressed concern arising from postings on the LBC website about a large proposed development in West Lincoln, about which the GLNP has been advising the council. She does not want to be in conflict with a member organisation of GLNP. PE said that the LBC is neutral on the matter but individual members are free to express their own views on the website. There is therefore no conflict with GLNP. The 2017 Report will appear in 2019, which is the 40th anniversary of the club. It is probably too much to produce a new Birds of Lincolnshire, but a full systematic list could feature in the 2017 Report. This suggestion was well received. PE will approach Chris Gunn about a joint BTO/LBC meeting in November 2018. The speaker for next year's AGM was discussed and PH will approach Roger Riddington.

AOB:

1 AC suggested Mark Carwardine, following an inspirational talk at the Birdfair; we'll keep his name in mind.

2 HC suggested another talk from Prof Newton, following his recent book on Farming and Birds.

3 AC told us that he had got lots of data from the Rook survey and hopes to find time to write an article for a Report.

4 PE suggested that we need new committee members and each current member should try to recruit one.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday November 28th at 19:30 at The Admiral Rodney?

Meeting closed: at 21:20.