

LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING 26 NOVEMBER 2013
MINUTES

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

Apologies for absence: Janet Eastmead, Anne Goodall, Grahame Hopwood, Roy Harvey, Phil Espin and Phil Hyde.

Presentation from LWT: Dave Bromwich and Pat Tarttelin gave details of the RAF Woodhall site they are trying to buy. To do this they are seeking funding from public bodies and consultation with local organisations like ours is an important part of the submission. We are very keen to see this purchase happen and will help with surveys and advice when asked. It is hoped that one or more birdwatching hides will be erected. Concern over the public access, and resulting harm to breeding waders from uncontrolled dogs, was expressed.

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

Matters arising:

Joint meeting with BTO: Agreed that this was a very good day: well attended and interesting talks. It could become a biennial event. APC will write, expressing our thanks, to Chris Gunn.

Rare and Scarce report 2003-7: At the final stage of proof-reading and hoped to be finished by Christmas; at the printers by January and ready to give out at the AGM.

2012 Report: has started but is rather slow progress at the moment.

Officers' reports:

Treasurer: A copy of the current position was circulated. John pointed out that subscription income does not cover the cost of the report and we will have a deficit this year and next. Although we have reserves, it seems sensible to consider an increase in subscription rates: this will have to be put to the membership at the next AGM. After much discussion, it was proposed that family rate should rise to £18, individual to £15 and concession to £12.

Secretary: A letter had been received offering free optics from Minox in return for emailing a promotional email to our members. It was agreed that the secretary should seek clarification as to the nature of the gift and then we will probably go ahead.

BTO had been contacted and we are now a partnership bird club.

Sales secretary: copy of sales accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting. 60 copies of the recent report had been sold, which is a drop from last time – 114 in 2012. Frampton has been a very good sales outlet and were thanked for their help. No information has yet been received from LWT about the sales at Gib so the figures will improve.

Membership secretary: No actual figures to hand. There have been liaison problems with the LWT. It was agreed that we should ask the LWT to send out reminders to non-payers with the third one terminating membership.

County recorder North: John has dealt with enquiries from the public on 120 topics. Sightings from BirdTrack are regularly received and none has been contentious.

County recorder South: echoed the comments of his Northern colleague.

Rarities committee: not present.

Chairman and Webmaster: A Twitter site has been created on the web-site. It must be open-access and currently has 210 followers and is a way of engaging with a younger audience than has been the case with the web-site.

BAP: Anne Goodall had circulated a report. The committee are grateful for the work undertaken.

AOB:

LBC Calendar: no progress had been made and John Badley will try again for a 2015 edition.

AGM: Robert confirmed that the speaker for the AGM would be Dr Stuart Butchart, currently Head of Science at BirdLife International, and a former pupil at QEGS Horncastle.

Honorary membership: Phil Espin's suggestion was discussed. Although it has some merit, no consensus was reached as to who might benefit.

Joint LBC/LNU meeting: although attendance was only about 20, it was felt that Toby Collett's talk had been very good and the subsequent Q&A session had been very informative and interesting. We will have similar events in the future.

Web-site photo album: There has been a recent series of exchanges about a photo that appeared on the album and had been subsequently removed. It was agreed that we support the actions of Russell Hayes and are grateful to him for his time and efforts. APC would write to the individuals concerned explaining the reasons for the decision.

Nocton Fen: John Watt gave some information concerning a proposal for a wind farm at this important site. The RSPB are aware of the situation and the LBC may become involved at a later stage, both as a provider of data and as a lobby group.

Meeting closed at 21:59.