

MINUTES OF LBC COMMITTEE MEETING, 24th FEBRUARY 2016

Present: Committee: Phil Espin, John Watt, Mike Harrison, John Clarkson, Andrew Chick, Phil Hyde and Robert Carr. Members: none.

Apologies for absence: Bill Sterling, Ian Macalpine-Leny and Graham Hopwood.

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

Matters arising:

The joint BTO/LBC conference was a great success; Phil Espin (PE) asked that we put on record our thanks to Chris Gunn for organising the event and to all the speakers.

Similarly, the joint LBC/LNU talk was well received and thanks are due to the speaker John Clarkson (JC).

There is no new member as yet on the Records Committee for the north area as those approached did not want to take part.

Officers' reports:

Treasurer:

The 2015 Receipts and Payments statement had been circulated prior to the meeting and copies were available to review; nothing particularly noteworthy although publications sales were down; reimbursement for data expenses now comes through the GLNP and a further payment will be due around April when the final validated 2014 data is delivered; the total should be similar to last year; only one bird report published 2015 compared to two last year.

Woodhall Spa country show: John had been approached to see if we wish to have a stand but the feeling of the committee was that we lack volunteers and the necessary display equipment, and ICT capability if we wanted to have a monitor with feed from a Barn Owl nest box, for example.

John Watt told us of the gift of £50 we'd received from Colin Beck, who had organised a Bird quiz in Branston; we are very grateful for the donation.

Secretary:

Louth Peregrines booklet: JC advised that we have received £150 already from Geoff Mullett as he is donating £1 to the LBC for each copy sold; more is expected when the screen with live feed from the nest-cam starts later this year. There is no conflict with the Church authorities and access to the tower ceased on January 31st. PE and JC have met with the Church authorities to discuss LBC participation at Open Days when the young are fledged. To this end, we will need a publicity banner; we will find out from the LNU who they used when they had one made.

An obituary for Keith Atkin a founder member of the bird club and county recorder will be written by PE & JC and included in the 2014 Bird Report currently in preparation.

An email had been received from Buglife but it was felt that the project it discussed is not within our remit.

Sales secretary:

Not present but he'd circulated the latest spreadsheet; sales have declined although there is £150 to be transferred from Andrew Chick (AC) for sales from the web-site. Perhaps we could sell more reports by having a presence at future county rarities? Obviously volunteers would be needed – as well as a banner? Perhaps the Report could be advertised by email to those who request data from the GLNP: PE will investigate.

Membership secretary:

Mike Harrison (MH) is behind in issuing membership packs to new members, which had caused some problems. Access to the forum for new members is controlled by the Jennings and AC: these parties could be advised of new members by Wilma at LWT when the DD mandate is received. Wilma could also have New Members packs (envelope with the latest Report, welcome letter and newsletter) to send out. MH is to issue all outstanding mew member packs forthwith and provide ten such packs to Wilma on Monday 29th

February . The new membership information on the web-site also needs updating as it leads to unfulfilled expectations and subsequent disappointment.

County recorder South: not present.

County recorder North:

JC has been asked by BB for LBC records of "Scarce Birds" for 2014; this was previously done by Graham Catley. The Jennings can provide the data for any species requested but they include unverified records at the moment. For example, there are 20 records for Black-throated Diver but only one has a description. There was a long discussion about this issue and it was resolved to hold a LBRC meeting in the near future to review all the relevant records; JC will organise this; it is possible that certain species will be removed from the list as they have become commoner.

JC also raised the idea of a co-ordinated LBC single-species survey: this could be a single day for passage migrants like Whimbrel or scarce breeders like Turtle Dove or it could be a more extended survey of Marsh or Willow Tit, which would have to be organised for 2017. The committee agreed that this would be a good way to involve more members and John will investigate further.

Webmaster:

AC will update the new members welcome page.

To reduce the heavy workload on the Jennings, it was agreed that they will ignore the posted forum records for the Top 20 BirdTrack submitters whose records they receive from BirdTrack. Perhaps all those who submit records on BirdTrack could indicate this in their post, which would further reduce the duplication of records that need inspection before entry

Chairman:

Anne Goodall has advised she is half-way through entering data for the 30 years of GBS data and will then proceed to write a report which LBC will publish.

Good progress is being made with the 2014 Report thanks to Andrew Henderson and all contributors but around 5% of species accounts have still not been submitted. It will not be available for the AGM on 22nd March but should be available soon after.

PE attended Keith Atkin's funeral and had subsequently been contacted by his relatives; Keith has a considerable quantity of bird related information, in a variety of formats which Keith's relatives would like help with. This raises the issue of what to do with such records and in particular where they might be archived. Old bird reports could be converted to a digital format and made available to members. There would be a cost but this might be covered by reserve funds. Also publication of the LBC 1990s Atlas data, even if only in electronic format, would be a fitting memorial for Keith. PE and AC will organise a meeting for those interested after the AGM and after the 2014 Report has been published.

AOB:

The AGM will be at the Admiral Rodney, Horncastle at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 22nd March. The speaker will be Mark Thomas from the RSPB, who will talk on "The life of a bird detective". AC will put the necessary poster and agenda on the web-site shortly; these will also be emailed to all members who have an email address; MH will send the papers to those who do not. There is no specific business for the committee to raise at the AGM.

Date of next meeting: 27th July 2016

Meeting closed at 21:40