

## MINUTES OF LBC COMMITTEE MEETING, 16 NOVEMBER 2016

**Present:** Phil Espin, Bill Sterling, Robert Carr, Mike Harrison, Andrew Chick and Ian Macalpine-Leny.

**Apologies for absence:** Phil Hyde, John Watt, John Clarkson and John Badley.

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

**Matters arising:** most will be dealt with below, except that Graham Catley has agreed to give the talk at the joint LNU/LBC meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2017; the topic will be Laughton Forest.

### **Officers' reports:**

**Treasurer:** Not present, but a statement had been circulated. AC told us that he had recently transferred £214.06 for Report sales which had not been included. JW wanted to warn us of a scam email he'd received, asking for money. AC suggested as a principle that surplus cash received from data should be spent on conservation projects.

**Secretary:** Had not attended the recent meeting of the Urban BAP as the date had been changed and he was not available. RC will contact the Admiral Rodney as a possible venue as The Fighting Cocks had closed.

**Sales secretary:** Bill's report had been circulated; the drop in sales over the past few years was highlighted and Andrew Chick will send out an email to customers of the GLNP who have used LBC data in the last 18 months.

**Membership secretary:** Numbers seemed to have reached a plateau around 275 with very few new members. Interestingly, Ian told us that membership of the LNU had remained very stable for the last 50 years, around 200.

**County recorder North:** not present, no items for consideration.

**County recorder South:** not present, no items for consideration.

**Webmaster:** AC drew our attention to three serious problems: much of our software is out of date; only Andrew can update items and it would help if others could do so for their particular areas of responsibility; were an accident to befall AC then no-one knows how to access the site. For these reasons, we agreed that AC should approach a web-hosting company to manage the site for us (as do the GLNP with their site); the likely costs are in the region of a one-off transfer of £3-500 and an annual fee of £100. AC will get quotes; we agreed in principle to spend this money.

**Chairman:** could not attend the recent GLNP conference due to family commitments.

London Camera Exchange Lincoln are hosting an event at Whisby on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017, focussing on Optics and Wildlife. We agreed that we should have a presence there, subject to sufficient volunteers being available. A pop-up banner might cost around £100 and PE will investigate.

The BTO is not planning any special surveys next year so perhaps we might do our own: coastal winter passerines is one possibility and the status of Grey Heron as a breeding species. Numbers of the latter in the county have dropped by around 50% over past years whilst remaining more or less stable in the UK as a whole. Barrie Wilkinson has suggested that the 30 or so sites covered by the BTO annual survey and which appear in the Report, may miss a significant colony, somewhere between Alford and Louth. A series of coordinated vantage point surveys next spring might locate such a colony and PE will put details on the forum in due course.

The new report is progressing and, once again, we are indebted to Andrew Henderson: in particular, his processing of all the data sources into one block for writers to use has been fantastic. The worry that Andrew alone has the data was raised and PE and AC will investigate the possibility of making a back-up, perhaps on the web-site. New authors are always welcome and should approach PE in the first instance. It would be helpful if authors could acknowledge receipt of their data from Andrew Henderson as well as indicating their willingness to write the accounts.

An acquaintance of PE in Louth makes nest-boxes as a leisure activity and any member interested in obtaining one (or more) should contact PE.

We hope that Andy Clements, director of the BTO, will speak at the AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017. RC has booked the usual room at The Admiral Rodney. PE has received details of three research projects the BTO is proposing to run which might be carried out, in part, in our county. The species concerned are Woodlark, Nightjar and Common Buzzard. There was a long discussion about the relative merits and we agreed that PE will get back to the BTO, to find out more about the Buzzard project and how we might get involved. We can provide details of nest-sites, climbers and qualified ringers if needed, as well as providing financial support.

**Geoff Mullett:** had requested financial support for a better screen and camera for the Louth Peregrines. We agreed in principle; RC will write asking for specific details, before we commit ourselves.

**Jim Wright:** : had requested financial support for Swift nest-boxes for Louth. We agreed in principle; RC will write asking for specific details, before we commit ourselves.

**AOB:** MH had met Roger Riddington, editor of BB, at the Bird Fair. Roger visits the county regularly and would be happy to talk at a future AGM, if the date suits.

**Date of next meeting:** 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

**Meeting closed:** at 21:20.