

## **Minutes of committee meeting of Lincs Bird Club held on February 26, 2019, at the Coach & Horses, Hemingby**

### **Chairman's welcome**

Acting meeting chairman Andrew Chick welcomed members and expressed birthday greeting (in his absence) to club chairman Phil Espin (who had been delayed on his return from the Shetlands by a flight cancellation).

### **Attendance**

Andrew Chick (acting chairman), John Clarkson, Nick Tribe, Bill Sterling, Mike Harrison, Jim Wright.

### **Apologies for absence**

Received from Phil Espin, Phil Hyde, Colin Casey.

### **Minutes of November 27, 2018 meeting**

Signed as a correct record by AC.

### **Matters arising**

JC announced that, having been in the post for the past 10 years, he would be stepping down at the 2019 AGM as county recorder (north). He was thanked by committee members for all that he had achieved, with AC commending him for his "sterling" contribution. The resignation will create a vacancy which will come up for discussion at the AGM. AC stressed the need to recruit "new people" to the committee.

### **Feedback on LBC meetings held in January**

*a) Joint annual meeting with the LNU at Whisby.*

This was hailed as a great success by NT who said the guest speaker, Prof Ian Newton, had pitched the contents and tone of his illustrated talk on migration "just right" for the audience of 56. AC said the event had been of mutual benefit to both organisations, and he hoped they could continue to move forward together. It is

understood that Barrie Wilkinson has agreed to be guest speaker (on the history of Gibraltar Point) at the corresponding event next year, with either Gib or Whisby likely to be the venue.

*b) joint meeting with the BTO at Whisby*

AC commended Chris Gunn (BTO) for organising the event so superbly. NT praised the quality of the presentations. Favourable comments were also made by JC and JWa. The only downside was that the meeting premises had become hot and stuffy by the end of each session. JWr said the LBC display - a table with back copies of the club's annual report - compared unfavourably with the "more professional" pop-up display banners of the LNU and BTO. MH said purchase of display material had come up for discussion in the past.

JWr confirmed he had written expressing thanks to both events' guest speakers.

## **2019 AGM**

Arrangements were confirmed, with Alex Lees agreeing to speak on the subject of Rewilding at the Golf Hotel in Woodhall Spa on April 9 at 7.30pm. All will be welcome to the event. The AGM for members will be held afterwards, JWr to compile the agenda which will be published on the website/ in a forthcoming newsletter. JWa noted an agenda item needed to be the election of a new auditor in succession to Caroline Chick who has carried out this duty, unpaid, for many years. For those 25 or so members without computer access, MH will send out agendas, AC to supply him with a list of names/addresses of these individuals.

## **Update on annual report**

This is now at the printer and is expected to be available for distribution to paid-up members at the AGM. AC commended PH for his extensive involvement, in particular for driving the compilation of the all-important systematic list. JC described the challenges of creating concise, relevant and

consistent reports on individual species as different as blue tit and black-throated diver. Following a query from BS, JC said a single template was not a feasible option because of the diverse status of different birds. It was agreed that £200 should be paid to Nicola Clarkson in recompense of her skill, diligence and time (25-plus) hours in proofreading and making corrections/alterations to the content.

### **Update on membership renewals**

This to be covered later in the meeting in the treasurer's report.

### **E-newsletter**

Although there has been negligible member-feedback, the relaunch of the newsletter was felt by AC and others to have been a positive initiative for which CC had largely been responsible. AC noted there was now a consistency and regularity about the publishing arrangements. The next edition was due to go out imminently. In response to a query from JW<sub>r</sub>, AC said that back numbers were accessible to members via the Information section of the club's website. JW<sub>r</sub> suggested that the newsletter would have more of an identity if a title was given to it. In keeping with the club's logo, he suggested *The Heron*. Accepted.

### **To consider appointing/electing an honorary president**

It was generally felt that this would be a worthwhile initiative, and several names were submitted. Members also discussed whether the tenure should be for life or for a fixed period - for instance, three years (as in the case of the RSPB) or five years (BTO). JW<sub>a</sub> and MH were of the opinion that the appointee should be a widely respected academic, preferably resident in the county. Such an individual (whose name would be included in the annual report) would lend 'figurehead' status to the club. JW<sub>r</sub> favoured appointing someone younger, preferably an individual who had given significant service both to the club and ornithology in the county but who would also be an active ambassador for the club.

This item was adjourned to a future meeting to allow further consideration and input from absent committee members.

### **BBRC archives**

Following enthusiastic interest expressed by club member Matthew Harrison, members agreed a proposal from AC that these should be passed to him for assessment and further action as required.

### **Any other officer reports**

*Chairman:* Absent

*Treasurer:* JWa provided a comprehensive verbal/written report on club finances which are in a healthy state. He noted that the membership for last year was 330. The majority (71.5 per cent) choose to renew by direct debit. Some 14.6 per cent subscribe/renew by Paypal. There are still three per cent who opt for renewal by cheque, postal order, standing order or cash. Of the membership, 34 per cent pay at the senior rate and 11 per cent pay the family rate.

*Secretary:* JWa sought clarification on how members could access a key to the club hide at Cut End. AC explained that one was available, on payment of a deposit. The procedure was to email [info@lincsbirdclub.co.uk](mailto:info@lincsbirdclub.co.uk) and the request would be forwarded to Steve Keightley to be actioned.

JWa reminded members that NELC's ecology officer, Mike Sleight, would be giving a talk at the Discovery Centre, Cleethorpes (10am on March 5) on the proposed new wetland reserve currently being created at Stallingborough.

*IT officer:* AC said he was reviewing how members communicate via the club website, Twitter and Facebook. He intends to draw up some proposals (possibly to be incorporated in the chairman's address) for discussion at the AGM.

*Membership secretary:* MH unable to advise the committee on the membership roll because he does not have access to the data. AC agreed to provide him with monthly updates.

*Sales secretary:* Nothing to report from BS.

*County recorder (south):* Nothing to report from PH.

*County recorder (north):* Nothing to report from JC.

### **Proposal to link membership renewal with distribution of annual report**

In absence of CC, PE and PH, this item was adjourned to a future meeting.

### **Any other business**

AC has compiled a flow chart for the recording process re bird data. This will be included, along with an introduction, in the newsletter.

NT reported that David Sheppard would be guest speaker for the LNU AGM on March 2 at Whisby. All welcome, The subject will be the History of Invertebrate Records in Lincolnshire.

JWa commented on record of auditing the accounts of the LBC. She has received no remuneration and members agreed that a token of the club's appreciate was overdue.

### **Date/time/place of next meeting**

Tuesday July 2 (7.30pm) at Coach and Horses, Hemingby

*There being no further business, the chairman closed the meeting at 9.18pm.*