

Minutes for LBC committee meeting – 7.30pm, July 21, 2020, held via Zoom video-conference facility

1. The chairman, Phil Espin, welcomed members.
2. There were no apologies for absence. Attendance: Phil Espin, Phil Hyde, Andrew Chick, John Watt, Nick Tribe, Bill Sterling, Mike Harrison, Jim Wright.
3. The minutes of Feb 11, 2020 meeting (minutes posted on website) were signed by JWr on behalf of the chairman.

4. Any matters arising

(a) Following a positive visitor-response to LBC representation at a Rewilding Open Day(Brigg Heritage Centre, February 22), it was agreed that the club should purchase a pop-up banner and/or display board display for use at similar events in future. Purchase of such material to be delegated to JWr/BS subject to prior consent of PE as club chairman. PE requested that the LBC logo should be featured plus a little tern, an iconic county breeding species.

(b) PE/AC reported that distribution of the 2018 annual report had gone smoothly, though 12 were returned because members' stick labelled addresses had fallen off. However, new addresses were attached and the reports re-dispatched.

5. 2019 annual report

PH reported that progress was on track. Based on submitted data, some 50 species reports had already been written up, and there is likely to be eight or nine articles, including finders' reports. AC said one contribution was likely to be an authoritative research paper from the Centre of Ecology and Hydrology on The Wash of low tide bird waterbird counts. This has been compiled on behalf of Natural England.

6. Update from Andrew Chick on GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations)

This item was adjourned to a future meeting.

7. Website

AC reported that following advice from Colin Casey, it had been decided to engage Lincoln-based IT consultancy Elmore Digital to carry out website maintenance at £150 per annum. Colin Casey is no longer involved with maintenance of the website. This was approved by the committee. AC will retain the capacity to add, alter or remove content. A discussion followed. Although the Forum has proved less popular, the revamped website has proved effective in recruiting new members. AC agreed to a request by PH for greater prominence to be given on the home page to the county species list which is one of the site's most popular features. MH noted that the apparent decline in popularity of the Forum was partly due to members using other social media. Of these, Twitter was the most notable.

8. E-newsletter/ *The Heron*

AC said submissions had been steady. Publishing it monthly had not been proving problematic. PE said that it was being well read. This was evidenced by 8 additional members who had signed up to the club's exclusive WhatsApp offering after having read an article about it in the July issue.

9. 2020 AGM

Members agreed that the re-arranged date of September 8 was no longer feasible because of the continuing coronavirus situation. Furthermore, to meet social distancing guidelines, The Golf hotel would only be able to accommodate a maximum of 30 attendees—well short of the club's requirements. The subject will remain under review by exchange of emails between committee members in the coming weeks, with updates in *The Heron* and on the website. The September issue will carry a Chairman's Report, the audited accounts and a note on the situation. The speaker Tim Birkhead will be advised and asked to speak at whenever the next AGM takes place.

10 & 11. Arrangements for joint LBC/LNU meeting, January 2021

Nick Tribe reported that the education centre at Whisby would be available on January 16, 2021. However, as with The Golf, attendance might be subject to restrictions. It was suggested that John Badley's kind offer to give a talk about the history of RSPB Frampton Marsh might be worth taking up for the event but AC recalled that a talk on the reserve had been given about eight years ago. This item was adjourned to a future meeting pending a) considerations by LNU b) further research on previous speakers and c) what happens with coronavirus.

12. Publishing Lincolnshire Bird Atlas

After a detailed presentation by PE, who said he was very pleased with the appearance and content of the first hard back proof copy of the book, the items below were all approved:

- a) Colin Casey's recommendation of American print-on-demand firm Lulu as publishing partner.
- b) To grant PE, as chairman, delegated powers to approve LBC contract with Lulu (including any outstanding payments) following consultations with other committee members if appropriate
- c) PE to be preliminary payment provider to Lulu, the amount to be reimbursed from club funds
- d) Retrospective setting up of new LBC account with Lulu to enable publication of atlas
- e) Payments to be made to: £350 to Neil Smith (illustrations), £200 to John & Nicky Clarkson (proof reading), £150 Colin Casey (out-of-pocket IT expenses)
- f) To supply an order to Lulu of 100 hardback print copies (at an estimated price of £14.20 per copy, plus £99 postage). These to be given free to libraries, conservation organisations and members key to the production of the Atlas and bird report at the discretion of PE in consultation with other committee members.
- g) The Atlas to be retailed by Lulu direct online print on demand at £30. A subsequent order of soft copies at £6.84 per copy to be given free to members who will order and collect at the AGM or some subsequent set date.
- h) A free copy of atlas in online pdf format to be made available to all paid-up members of LBC

- i) To delegate arrangements for timing of launch to PE
- j) To publicise the atlas as and when appropriate

13. Honorary life membership of LBC

After discussion, it emerged that there are no specific criteria for nominations. As a general guide, factors include distinguished service to LBC or to ornithology (both within the county and beyond). MH said the main factor was the 'discretion of the committee'.

It was proposed by PE and unanimously agreed that Colin Casey should be awarded an honorary membership for his work on the website, on recording activities and on the forthcoming county bird atlas.

14. Officers report

a) Chairman, PE's report

1. The lockdown from late March onwards has caused a major issue in that it has not been possible to hold the AGM and it may not be possible to do so for the foreseeable future. It also put the kibosh on the second half of the Willow Tit Survey. Anyone with results is requested to forward them to PE.
2. PE had attended the GLNP workshop in March to discuss setting a new Nature Strategy for Lincs for the next 25 years. A draft has been developed and circulated to all committee members for feedback by 31 July.
3. Gib Point has requested and been granted a donation of £1,600 towards night wardening of the shorebird colony which was confirmed by exchange of emails by the committee on 2nd July. The cheque has been forwarded to LWT and the decision needs to be formally approved at this meeting under AoB. Gib have already acknowledged the donation on their website and will report formally

on the outcome of the Little Terns and Ringed Plovers by the next committee meeting.

4. Following the July newsletter membership of the WhatsApp group has now increased to 58.

5. The lock on the door at Cut End Hide has been vandalised and Steve Keightley is organising a repair that will ensure member keys still work and will not have to be reissued. I have said LBC will pay the locksmith. It may be possible to get reimbursement from Anglian Water but they have not responded to emails.

6. Sandilands Golf Course just north of Huttoft Car terrace has been purchased by the National Trust who have plans at an early stage to completely develop the site into a coastal nature reserve. PE and AC know Carl Hawke who will be managing the process and there will be scope for LBC members to get involved. The lockdown has delayed action but there are exciting possibilities.

b) Secretary

On behalf of LBC, JWr had emailed thanks to a couple of companies which had safeguarded nest sites during recent projects. One was a Humber South Bank firm which has delayed demolition of a redundant factory near Grimsby until gulls have finished nesting and because it thought that there might also be a pair of little ringed plovers. The other was a civil engineering firm which went to the trouble of protecting separate wagtails' nests in two of its industrial vehicles.

c) Treasurer

JWa supplied a written report and described tightened security arrangements had been adopted by the club's bank, HSBC

d) Membership secretary

MH: Nothing further to report

e) Sales secretary

BS: Supplied a written update on sales

f) County recorder

PH noted that Richard Doan was being trained by Colin Casey on how to use Wildlife Recorder software. The licence fee to be paid by the club is £15.

g) IT Officer

AC: Nothing further to report

15. Any other business

a) Grant of £1,600 to LWT for shorebird wardening at Gib approved and cheque payment authorised (see chairman's report, above).

b) J Wa observed that an historic item in the annual report was out of date. PH said this would be rectified for 2019.

16. Date and time of next meeting

7.30pm, November 10, by Zoom.

There being no further business, PE closed the meeting at 9.20pm.