

## **MINUTES FOR LINCS BIRD CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7.30pm ON TUESDAY JULY 13 VIA ZOOM**

1. Chairman Phil Espin welcomed the following attendees: John Watt, Phil Hyde, Joy Croot, John Badley, Andrew Chick, Nick Tribe, Mike Harrison & Jim Wright.

2. Apologies for absence: None.

3. Minutes of March 16 meeting - these were confirmed as posted on club website.

4. Any matters arising

In response to a query from JWr, PE and JB said there had been no new developments on the Environment Agency's proposal to dispose of the Cut End hide on The Wash. The situation was still in a state of flux. JB reported on the arts initiative involving installation of navigation buoys at RSPB Frampton Marsh as a proposed tribute to the late Steve Keightley, a much valued LBC member and Frampton bird recorder. The buoy located opposite the Cut End hide will have a cut-out front with a bird-observation bench inside. In due course, a plaque might also be installed. Steve had a nautical background, having been born into a family with a boat-building history.

5. Minutes of the special committee meeting on June 8 were confirmed.

6. Any matters arising from special committee meeting: None

7. Update on Peregrine/internet webcam projects funded by LBC

a) St Wulfram's Church, Grantham

AC said there had been no breeding during 2021, but two birds had recently begun prospecting the site. Cameras will continue to monitor activity indefinitely. Prior to next season, some adjustments will be made in order to make the nest tray more accommodating. (Note: This project is featured on the St Wulfram's website with appropriate acknowledgement to Lincs Bird Club.)

#### b) St James' Church Louth

AC reported a successful season, the pair having bred. There had been numerous online viewings and some donations towards costs. He thanked Geoff Mullett for his continuing work on this project. Because the system is different from that at Grantham, the cameras have now been switched off to save streaming costs. The adults and young have left the site. (Note: This project is featured on the St James website).

#### 8. Update on sales of *Birds of Lincolnshire*

PE reported that 350 books - half the print-run - had now been sold, and the venture was just short of break-even. Copies were now on sale at Lincs Wildlife Trust outlets at Far Ings and Gibraltar Point, and there were hopes that RSPB Frampton Marsh would soon provide another retail outlet. Some 29 sales have been achieved via distribution company WildSounds, less than hoped for. It was unclear how vigorously, if at all, the firm was marketing the title. AC suggested that a sales flier should be produced with a request to the BTO to distribute it with their members' magazine.

#### 9. Proposal to take stand space at Spurn Migration Festival (Sept 10-12)

The committee approved this project - to promote the club, to encourage new memberships and to sell copies of *Birds of Lincolnshire*. The cost of stand space is £40. After much discussion, committee agreed JC's suggestion that the book should be offered for sale at £40, with a year's LBC membership thrown in. It is hoped that a few members might volunteer for stand-duties over that weekend. More details are due to appear in the club's August newsletter.

## 10. Provisional arrangements for annual joint meeting of LBC/LNU - January 2022

In recent years, this has proved a popular event, and committee agreed that it should be restored in January next year subject to the hall at LWT Whisby being available. It will provide another opportunity for sales of *Birds of Lincolnshire*, and PE volunteered to give the keynote talk, possibly with contributions from the book's other co-authors. NT said he would liaise with LNU committee colleagues to confirm agreement that this joint meeting should proceed subject to lockdown restrictions being eased.

## 11. Provisional arrangements for LBC AGM - Spring 2022

This year's AGM was held via Zoom, but, pandemic allowing, it is hoped that the 2022 even can be held in person. The Golf Hotel, Woodhall Spa, still holds a £100 deposit paid by the club. There were numerous suggestions for prospective speakers, but, after much discussion, it was agreed that an approach should be made to Ruth Tingay, a director of two organisations, Raptor Persecution and Wild Justice (Chris Packham and Mark Avery are co-directors of the latter).

## 12. Officers' reports on items not previously covered on agenda

### a) Chairman

PE provided a written report, outlining initiatives since March this year, including the publication of *Birds of Lincolnshire* which has enjoyed critical acclaim and commercial success. Unfortunately, no one in the club has responded to an appeal for an events secretary. In conclusion, PE paid particular and huge tribute to club stalwart Colin Casey who has had to step down from data-processing work for health reasons.

### b) Treasurer

JWa provided a financial update and verbal commentary, highlighting the success of *Birds of Lincolnshire* in generating new members seeking to buy a copy at a discounted price.

c) Sales secretary

BS supplied a written report, noting a very busy first six months of the year since when sales have slowed almost to standstill.

d) County recorder

PH provided a written report. He renewed his appeal for one of the club's registered ringers to volunteer to compile a ringing report. He further noted that data transfer/processing arrangements would need to be reviewed because Colin Casey, who has always done "tonnes of work", was no longer available.

e) IT officer/ newsletter editor

AC thanked all those who contribute to The Heron, the club's online newsletter, which is now regularly achieving approx 30 pages per month.

13. Any other business: None

14. Date of next meeting: Provisionally fixed for October 26, 2021 at a time and place to be confirmed later.

There being no further business, PE closed the meeting at 9pm.

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