

Minutes of Lincs Bird Club committee, held via Zoom, at 7.30 pm on November 9, 2021

1. Chairman Phil Espin welcomed attendees Chris Gunn, Andrew Chick, Mike Harrison & Jim Wright.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Joy Croot, John Watt, Phil Hyde & Bill Sterling.

3. Minutes of July 13, 2021 meeting were confirmed.

4. Any matters arising.

None other than items later on the agenda.

5. Committee welcomed Chris Gunn as the club's first events organiser and Nige Lound who has taken over as chair of the club's records committee. Thanks were also expressed to Nige's predecessor, James Siddle. PE has written to both Nige and James.

6. LBC's attendance at Spurn MigFest

PE described the club's attendance with our own stand/display as very useful both for meeting other festival attendees and for swapping experiences and know-how. Committee thanked him, PH and BS for their hard work on this venture which may provide a pilot for attendance at other events such as the Lincolnshire Show and Birdfair.

7. To clarify what expenditure incurred by committee members is eligible for reimbursement

In response to this agenda item, submitted by JWr, PE said there was no formal policy, nor guidelines. It was up to the discretion of members to decide if they wanted to submit claims - for instance, travel at 25p/mile for car mileage or purchasing equipment for club business. He said no one should be discouraged from joining the committee for fear they might be out of pocket. Committee decided no further action was required .

8. Steve Keightley/Colin Casey celebration event held on October 10 at RSPB Frampton

PE thanked Frampton warden John Badley for allowing the reserve to be venue for the event which was attended by 32. Thanks were also expressed to CG for organising it and for arranging the barbecue which MH described as "excellent".

9. Update on Motus initiatives for Lincolnshire

PE said LBC was still keen to support any specific Motus receiver research project that might help to answer conservation questions, but there was uncertainty about the level of commitment from the BTO. AC said Sykes Farm at Gib would be an ideal site for a receiver station. CG said she would seek an update from Dawn Balmer of the BTO. (Note: after the meeting, PE received a note from Kev Wilson, warden at Gib, stating that Motus receivers are currently operating at Spurn, Sandwich Bay, four sites in East Anglia and a few elsewhere. Yellow-browed Warbler was previously the target species, but the emphasis has since moved towards Blackcap for which 'recoveries' are more likely. Gib/ Lincs Wildlife Trust are still interested in participating subject to clarification on levels of accuracy, viability, research value, involvement of the British Observatories Council and funding. However, contact with the Motus co-ordinators seems, unfortunately, to have been 'lost').

10. Update on Cut End hide

Nothing new to report. The issue of allocating keys remains to be resolved.

11. Update on recent LBC publications - sales, storage, distribution etc

PE reported that revenue from sales of copies now exceeded printing costs. Most recently, three were sold at a meeting of Peterborough Bird Club where PE and PH had been guest speakers. However, 204 are still in storage at the printers, Swallowtail in Norwich. Committee considered suggestions that surplus copies might be distributed to public libraries, schools, local authority ecology officers and MPs, but it was decided first to take up the opportunity to distribute sales fliers inserted into a forthcoming edition of the BTO magazine in the hope of further sales. AC suggested Neil Smith might be willing to design the flier. BTO has not indicated that it will seek payment for providing the distribution service.

12. Arrangements (including speaker) for annual joint meeting of LBC/LNU, January 29, 2022

Phil E and Phil H to give a joint presentation on *Birds of Lincolnshire*.

13. Arrangements (including speaker) for LBC AGM, March 2022

It is hoped that this will be held at the Golf Hotel in Woodhall Spa, but if Covid concerns persist, Zoom will be the alternative. An approach to raptor campaigner Ruth Tingay to be guest speaker has met with no response. An alternative suggested by CG would be to invite Lincolnshire Police's wildlife liaison officer. However, because of continuing uncertainty about the impact of Covid on in-person meetings, committee decided not to invite a guest. Instead, Phil E and Phil H will give a joint presentation on *Birds of Lincolnshire*

14. Officers' reports (if any) on items not previously covered on agenda

a) Chairman

- i) PE described preliminary initiatives to restore two species - Great Bustard and Stone Curlew - to the Lincolnshire Wolds. There have been encouraging discussions with landowners/farmers but discussions remain at the confidential stage.
- ii) PE updated committee on a proposal by LBC member Toby Collett for a website-based Lincolnshire Birding Trail along the lines of something similar in Florida. County Council tourism unit are very interested. However, any detailed LBC involvement might have to wait until after work has finished on the next county bird report.
- iii) Discussions are continuing with print consultant Mike Rinfret (Woodhall Spa) about having past copies of the annual bird report scanned so that they can be posted online. (After the meeting a quote for £380 to scan all reports was received.)
- iv) The club has been approached about hosting birding walks as part of next year's Lincolnshire Wolds Outdoor Festival (May & June). The club would need to take out public liability insurance and comply with other health and safety procedures. Committee agreed that this should be pursued. AC noted that Nick Tribe would probably be able to advise from his experience with the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union.

b) Treasurer

John Watt's comprehensive finance update was noted.

c) Secretary

- i) Committee approved JWr's request that, since the minutes of meetings were available online, there was no need to print out hard copies.
- iii) No action to be taken at this time on JWr's suggestion that the committee should consider how LBC funds should be allocated in the event (hopefully unlikely) of the club folding.
- ii) Discussions between Joy Croot and Grimsby RSPB Group over closer relations were noted.

iii) No action to be taken at this time on JWr's suggestion that the committee should consider how LBC funds should be allocated in the event (hopefully unlikely) of the club folding.

d) Membership secretary

MH noted that he was seeking to resolve to a family membership issue from a prospective Peterborough-based new member.

e) Sales secretary

A written update from Bill Sterling was noted with gratitude.

f) County recorder

A written report from Phil Hyde was received with appreciation. AC commented that an LBC member, John Cooper, was now providing expert database support, particularly in making records from Birdtrack and E-bird usable. This "positive" back-up would prove beneficial in production of the annual report.

g) IT officer/ newsletter editor. AC thanked Chris Grimshaw and other contributors for their input, both to the newsletter and the website. JWr was added to the list of website moderators.

15. Any other business

In response to a question from MH, AC updated members on progress to transform the former Sandilands golf course at Sutton-on-Sea to a nature reserve following its acquisition by the National Trust. Indications are this could be a "mini-Gib Point" - possibly with nesting Little Terns and Ringed Plovers - once all the planning and other issues have been resolved. There will a visitor centre, a shop and other attractions once it has been developed, but it is too soon to speculate on an opening date.

16. Date/ time of next meeting

Feb 22, 2022.

There being no other business, PE wished all LBC members a Happy Christmas and closed the meeting at 9.14pm