

Minutes of Lincolnshire Bird Club, held at The Golf Hotel in Woodhall Spa, at 7.30pm on March 22, 2022

Attendees at talk/AGM:

Phil Espin, John Watt, Phil Hyde, Bill Sterling, Michael Harrison, Andrew Greenwood, Tim Everett, Chris Grimshaw, Andy Sims, Garry Steele, John Clarkson, Nicola Clarkson, Steve Lovell, Terry Whalin, Stuart Britton, Phyllis Mahon, Ixca Kaye, Jim Wright

1. Apologies for absence from AGM:

Joy Croot, Andrew Chick, Chris Gunn, Mary Craig, Robert Oates, Hugh Middleton, Pete Locking, Colin and Sheila Jennings and Terry Whalin (though TW attended the earlier talk by Phil Espin and Phil Hyde)

2. Minutes of the previous AGM and Matters arising from the Minutes:

The Minutes of the 2021 AGM (held via Zoom) were confirmed as posted on the LBC website. There were no matters arising

3. Address by Hon Chair Phil Espin:

Welcome everyone to our 2022 AGM live here in Woodhall Spa for the first time in three years. The 2020 event had to be postponed, then cancelled, owing to Covid restrictions. The 2021 AGM went ahead but, for similar reasons, it had to be held online via Zoom. It is good to see old faces and new. Thank you all for being here tonight.

I start with the sad duty of reporting deaths of members who have made significant contributions to the club. Colin Casey died last August. He had served the club in different ways over more than 30 years and was the driving force behind our records database, website and membership system and our recent publications the Atlas and Birds of Lincolnshire. It is difficult to think of anyone who has made such a significant contribution to the club and then just last week we hear that our past Chair, Anne Goodall, had died.

Anne was Chair of the Club for 15 years from 1992 to 2007. Amongst her achievements were the Status of Birds in Lincolnshire reports 1991-1995 with Keith Atkin and 1996-2000 with Janet Eastmead and the Atlas published in 2020, much of which was written by her. She was also the brains behind the Club's Garden Bird Feeding Survey which ran for many years before being rolled into the BTO's Garden Bird Feeding Survey. I'd now like us to take one minute's silence to remember Colin and Anne and all those who we have lost over the last year.

Thank you. Life goes on, the ordinary business of the club continues. Last Sunday the 2020 Bird Report went off to the printers and we hope it will be posted out sometime next month. The new design look for 2019 from our new printers Swallowtail of Norwich was well received. The production of the report has been a big team effort with thanks to everyone involved from all our members who submit their records in myriad forms to those involved in processing the records and the production of the report. This year we have been faced with the enormity of replacing Colin Casey's contribution and doing that has taken longer than we hoped. Thanks especially to Charlie Barnes at GLNP for sharing their excellent database facilities that have enabled us to move forward. Also thanks to Phil Hyde our

county recorder who oversees the records collection process and the team of writers and Andrew Chick who has started to fill the gap Colin left. As well as the systematic list, there are once more a number of excellent papers on birds in Lincolnshire which I'm sure you will enjoy reading. Finally I'd like to thank Colin and Sheila Jennings who underpinned our records system for many years and have just retired from doing that. To mark our appreciation I presented them with print 19 of 20 of the Pallas's Sandgrouse print from the cover of Birds of Lincolnshire.

It is now just a year since the publication by the club of the first new Lincolnshire Avifauna for 32 years: Birds of Lincolnshire. The book has received some excellent reviews in British Birds, The Ibis, BTO News and LWT's Lapwings magazine. We are now in profit on book sales. Of 800 printed over 530 have gone leaving us with a stock of 270 books or so. We have a sales drive via a leaflet in BTO News and more will be going soon. We are also looking at ways to promote and sell the book at this year's reconstituted Bird Fair. I have to say we did not produce the book to make money. I hate the idea of books sat in boxes unread and later this year I hope we can donate a number of books to county libraries and schools leaving a small stock for future members. I'd be interested in any thoughts you may have on how we can dispose of unsold books to promote the Club's aims.

The Club continues to be in a strong financial position which our Treasurer John Watt will mention when talking about our annual accounts a little later.

I am pleased to say all your officers are continuing in their roles but Joy Croot has recently resigned from the committee having served

18 months or so. There have been no nominations or motions received that require your attention this evening. We are always open to new ideas and most importantly new committee members.

At last year's Zoom AGM it was suggested that we should appoint an Events Organiser. I'm pleased to say Chris Gunn volunteered. Her first task was to organise a remembrance barbecue event last September for Steve Keightley and Colin Casey at their local patch, Frampton Marsh RSPB. 35 people attended including Steve's widow, Sally, and all felt it was a fitting tribute. Chris went on to organise a series of winter Zoom talks which were increasingly well attended up until this month's with Kev Wilson which had over 30 attendees. On behalf of the committee I'd like to record my thanks to Chris for all her hard work.

Our newsletter The Heron has continued to go from strength to strength and it is now the principal way we keep members aware of what's going on. A lot of effort goes into production, mainly from Chris Grimshaw and Andrew Chick, so thank you to them but please read it every month. In the next edition you'll be able to read about a great programme of summer events Chris Gunn has organised including a pelagic boat trip out of Grimsby in August. On that happy thought I'll stop there and ask if anyone has any questions about any aspect of the Club, I'll do my best to answer.

4. Questions from members:

None.

5. Presentation of the Audited Accounts:

LBC treasurer John Watt addressed the meeting about the main points of his written report. This showed a healthy-end-of-year balance of £28,025. Income from *Birds of Lincolnshire* was now higher than the cost of production and the title was still selling well. Membership subscription had increased and now stands at approximately 208 ordinary, 151 senior citizen and 53 family. Just over half renew by direct debit via the facility with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and 195 via Paypal. Six pay by cheque and a few pay by cash. There were no questions from members.

6. Re-appointment of Auditor:

Steve Bartlett was reappointed.

7. Reports from other officers:

a) Secretary: Jim Wright had two notices

i) an invitation to LBC members to a Zoom meeting being hosted on April 6 by Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society; the guest speaker is Frank Gardner, president of the BTO and security correspondent for the BBC.

ii) an announcement by Eastern Airways that, as from April 1, it would be operating a twice-a-week service between Humberside Airport and Cornwall Newquay Airport.

b) Membership secretary Mike Harrison presented a membership report, noting that the situation was always "dynamic" and it was never possible to state the precise number of members at any one time.

c) Sales secretary Bill Sterling presented a concise report on sales of LBC publications over the year.

8. Election of Officers and Committee Members:

The existing committee was elected en bloc.

9. Any other motions previously notified in writing or via email:

None

10. Any other business:

i) John Watt reported that the club had taken out an annual liability insurance policy (no CC009569) with Victor Insurance in respect of activities organised by the club - for instance, field trips, meetings, show stands. Total premium is £375.18. Expiry date is 19 March, 2023.

ii) Michael Harrison moved a vote of thanks to the authors of *Birds of Lincolnshire* for their hard work and expertise on the project.

There being no further business, the chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm.