

LBC Committee Meeting 7.30 pm Tuesday February 11th via MS Teams

1 Chairman's welcome

Phil Espin welcomed the following to the meeting: Andrew Chick, Mike Harrison, Bill Sterling, Jon Cooper, Sally Prescott, Phil Porter, Pete Locking, Jim Wright

2 Apologies for absence

These were received from Phil Hyde and Pete Short.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on November 12, 2024, as posted on the club's website

These were approved.

4 Matters arising

a) PE advised that all data had now been submitted for the 2024 survey of breeding Curlew on RAF airfields and a report would be published in due course.

The airfields will again be checked by RAFOS in the 2025 breeding season and LBC will check two other potential breeding sites in the county.

b) New membership leaflets. JC was commended on his design of the proposed new membership leaflet which has been updated to include new subscriptions rates and a QR code. Subject to a few amendments, such as addition of the club's website address, the design was approved. JC suggested that only a few leaflets should be printed at any one time in case the information needs modifying at a later date. MH observed that the age of the concession rate for seniors should be upped from 60 to the pension age. It was agreed this suggestion could be discussed at a future committee meeting with a proviso that, if adopted, it would need to be put to a vote by members at an AGM.

5 Recent events

a) January 14-18: Trip to Cairngorms.

Report has appeared in February newsletter

b) Annual joint meeting with Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union on January 25.

Report has appeared in February newsletter

It was noted that LNU has now paid its half (£50) of the speaker's fee, direct to Brain Tumour Research. PE reported that his speaker's fee and profits from the sale of the book, *Birds of Louth*, would be donated to Brain Tumour Research once the last few copies have been sold. 8 copies were sold at the meeting.

c) February 1 - Frampton Marsh

SF said only eight of the 11 who had booked attended, possibly because of the very cold weather and possibly because there was a guided tour of the reserve the following morning.

6 Future events

a) AGM Confirmed that this will be held at Whisby Education Centre at 2pm on Saturday March 15 when guest speaker Conor Jameson will talk about his book, *Finding W.H. Hudson*. It was agreed we should invite him to a pre-meeting lunch. All committee officers intend to stand for re-election with the exception of JW who is due to be replaced as secretary by PL subject to confirmation by members.

b) Holiday company Cairngorm Travel are prepared to run a fourth LBC trip to Scottish Highlands from May 6-10 (Cost: £330 per head). PL noted that demand might be limited given that the date was so soon after the corresponding January trip. He queried whether a similar trip to Northumberland was still a possibility. JW said he was in discussions with CT about this, though it would be more expensive.

c) SP confirmed a proposed visit to the Wild Wrendale rewilding project at Searby on Saturday 5 April (10am - noon) - booking details to be announced in the next newsletter

d) A visit to Vine House Farm, Deeping St Nicholas, at 8am on May 10 has now been arranged - booking details to be announced in the next newsletter

e) Committee approved a proposal by JW to invite the RSPB's former chief photographer Chris Gomersall to give a talk, perhaps in Grimsby (his home town) at a future date.

f) SP outlined proposals for visits to Far Ings (maybe in July) and Gibraltar Point (maybe in August), perhaps with a BBQ at the latter subject to approval of reserve officers. She will provide details of any arrangements made nearer the time.

7 Provisional request for young person's grant

Committee agreed a provisional request for a grant from Grimsby birder Liam Smith (23) towards purchase of a portable pop-up hide (c £100) to enable him to take photographs

around the county. However, it was noted that any approval would be subject to a formal application letter, an approved quote and his becoming a club member.

8 Officers' reports

a) Chairman

i) PE noted that the organisation Wild Justice had expressed interest in giving an online presentation in March. It was agreed that the club should respond positively, with March 6 being a possible date, but it would be up to WJ to organise any such event.

ii) Some members were still encountering difficulties with the lock at the Cut End hide on the Wash. Discussions had been held with Mr J. Stebbings of the Environment Agency which is due to service the lock as part of a maintenance schedule proposed for this month. Members have been warned in the Newsletter to exercise care when using the hide.

iii) Natural England and Gibraltar Point are at the start of a joint project on curlew feeding fields on inland coastal sites, and subject to individual member consent PE has offered to club will put them in touch with knowledgeable local observers subject to individual member consent.

iv) Compilation of the 2023 annual report is progressing more slowly than had been hoped. Publication may be later than in previous years. Any help with writes-up of individual species reports would be welcome.

b) Treasurer

JC supplied the annual accounts which are subject to audit. He reported that he was monitoring the direct debits to iron out any glitches. He said that HSBC bank would need to be notified of the forthcoming change of secretary. Auditor Steve Bartlett will conduct the audit this month.

c) Secretary

JW outlined a proposal for occasional excursions to birding destinations using the services of BCS Travel which has a 16-seater bus. The proposed pilot venture, subject to demand, is from Cleethorpes/ Grimsby to Global Birdfair at Rutland Water on Friday July 11th. PE asked if the bus would stop to pick up en route. And JW said he would ask if a stop around the Lincoln by-pass might be possible but past experience indicates the driver would be loathe to stop more than once.

As this was his last meeting as secretary, he thanked committee colleagues for all their support, encouragement and said it had been a pleasure and privilege to serve in the

role for the past six years and he was sure that Pete Locking would be a more than worthy successor.

d) County recorder

None

e) Membership secretary

None

f) Sales Secretary

BS provided written updates on sales of publications. He stated that copies of *Birds of Lincolnshire* and *Birds of Louth* were continuing to sell well. "This does not surprise me because they are very good publications," he commented. There followed a brief discussion, initiated by JC, about the practice of distributing complimentary copies, including postage, to some individuals/ organisations.

g) IT officer/ newsletter editor

AC reported on talks with consultant Dan Elmore which should lead to an upgrading of the website, possibly in advance of the AGM in March. He also advised of the recent new club account with social media platform Bluesky as a replacement for Twitter which is being run by volunteer Matt Dineen. AC further commended the enthusiasm of Jo Whitley who has recently taken over responsibilities for the Recent Sightings section on the website and in *The Heron* newsletter and thanked Chris Grimshaw for his long service in the role.

h) RSPB Humber officer

PS supplied a written note:

- Management plan for the Kings Coronation Coast has been completed bar a few amendments Natural England wanted to add. This should set out the goals and wider conservation aims of the Partners along this part of the Lincolnshire coast.
- RSPB Humber Team have been contributing through assisting with survey work to Natural England's supporting habitat project for the Estuary. This is looking at how the wildfowl and waders use the wider farmed landscape to help inform decisions on projects that may affect the SPA/SSSI assemblage.

9 Any other business

PP said the LNU and North East Lincolnshire Council were engaged on a survey of Ainslie Park a six-acre park near Grimsby Town Centre with a view to its being designated as a site of Local Wildlife Interest. He said records of birds and other wildlife

would be welcome. He agreed to an invitation to submit a request for support for publication in a forthcoming edition of the newsletter. PE also undertook to put a request for records on the Grimsby birders WhatsApp group.

10 Date, time and place of next meeting

This will be held via Microsoft Teams at 7.30pm on Tuesday July 15.