

LBC Committee Meeting 15th July 2025 held via Teams.

1. The meeting opened at 7.30 with Phil Espin, Phil Hyde, Jon Cooper, Sally Prescott, Bill Sterling, Jim Wright, Andy Chick, Mike Harrison and Pete Locking present.

2. Apologies were received from Phil Porter.

3. Minutes of Feb 11th meeting signed as a true record

4. Matters Arising

a. PE said that the 2024 Curlew breeding survey report had been completed and was with Gill Fisher of Natural England for comments. No 2025 survey had been undertaken.

b. BS said the problem with the Cut End hide key had been resolved and the new lock needed a high-tech key that cost £10.00 + postage.

c. Liam Smith's request for a grant for a popup hide is still pending. JW said he had not been in touch for a while.

5. Recent Events

a. The March 15th AGM was generally deemed a success although PE was disappointed at the turnout and the lack of member questions. PL thought that was a sign that members were satisfied with a smoothly run club. It was agreed that Conor Jameson's talk was interesting and that the Whisby venue was ideal.

b. The trip to Wrendale rewilding project was a success although no Beavers were seen! SP said the event was oversubscribed and that there would probably be an appetite for a repeat visit. She also said she had sent flowers to Hannah Dale, and it was stated that the club would reimburse the cost.

c. The trip to Vine House Farm was also a success. AC requested that in future could trip participants please provide photographs for The Heron.

6. Future Events.

JW had raised the idea of a joint meeting with Grimsby RSPB with a talk by the former RSPB photographer Chris Gomersall: JW said he was to be contacted in August.

SP reported that the summer BBQ was to be at Gibraltar Point on Saturday 30th August and would consist of a walk, a buffet followed by a shoreline walk if the tide was right. The cost is to be £12.00 pp, and full details would in the August issue of The Heron.

7. Swallowtail

A discussion then followed on the recent news of the receivership of Swallowtail, the printers of LBR. They had ceased trading the week after our 2023 report had been posted out to members.

Kaarin Wall, who sets out and designs the report for printing is a subcontractor for Swallowtail but has had a close working relationship with LBC for a number of years. She is out of pocket to the tune of £1600 and is unlikely to be paid for a long time and may get nothing at all. Committee members had mixed feelings on whether the club should help in some way financially. Several options were discussed but all had potential problems. It was agreed to wait to see what transpired.

PE suggested that the club would continue to work with Kaarin to produce the report pdf and would look for a new printer for LBR 2024. He also said now might be the time to consider asking members if some might prefer a pdf report rather than a hard copy for a cheaper membership subscription.

It was suggested that club members should be asked via The Heron if they would prefer the bird report on PDF or hard copy. It has to be said all the committee present preferred hard copy, but PE pointed out that both methods were possible.

8. Officers Report

Chair Phil Espin reported that the Peregrine camera in St. James's church has had another successful year with the pair raising three young. Geoff Mullett who has done a fine job since the cameras were originally installed would appreciate the assistance of a younger club member who could help with and takeover the annual installation and removal of the camera equipment.

County Recorder Phil Hyde had had to leave the meeting early but had provided a hard copy report.

IT Officer Andy Chick gave a short summary of the progress of the web site update. Owing to unforeseen problems it was more difficult and involved than expected. He also commented that Joe Whitely's bird sightings had had to be missed during the transition. (Her enthusiasm for the task was also noted.)

Treasurer Jon Cooper had nothing to report.

Events Organiser Sally Prescott had nothing to report.

Secretary Pete Locking enquired about the possibility of a CCTV camera overlooking the Manby hide which had recently been vandalised. PE said that PH was looking into it

already. Neil Stratton, the compiler of the Birdwatchers Yearbook, has asked for an update on the LBC, in particular the number of club members. It was estimated to be close to 425.

Membership Secretary Mike Harrison convincingly argued that the two-tier subscription system for OAP's and ordinary members should be scrapped as it was beyond his scope to monitor the birthdates of every member. Even the cut price for junior members presented a similar problem. It was requested that a change in the constitution addressing this should be on the agenda at the next AGM.

Sales Secretary Bill Sterling reported that he was overrun with unopened boxes of bird reports and asked, "are we printing too many." PE noted we had printed 550 2023 the same as for 2022. BS also noted that the free gratis ones sent to interested organisations had dropped from 16 to 4, and would it be possible to give more away. PE said he would look at the free gratis report BS had sent him and increase the numbers.

9. Any other Business

There were no relevant points raised though an interesting discussion was held on the impact of the exceptionally dry spring on breeding waders principally Dotterel and Curlew in the British uplands.

10. Date and time of next meeting

The date was fixed for 2nd December to be held at 19.30 by TEAMS.