

MINUTES OF LBC COMMITTEE MEETING, 18 NOVEMBER 2015

Present: Committee: Phil Espin, Robert Carr, Mike Harrison, John Badley, John Clarkson, Ian Macalpine-Leny and Andrew Chick; Members: Stuart Britton and Anthony Bentley.

Apologies for absence: John Watt, Phil Hyde and Bill Sterling.

Minutes of previous meeting: Agreed to be a true record.

Matters arising: The speaker for the next AGM gave rise to a lively debate, with many suggestions. Inevitably there was no clear consensus, just as there were a range of opinions about our last speaker Mark Cocker. In the event, John Badley contacted Mark Thomas who would talk about species protection. Phil dealt with the question of venue, time and day by reminding us of the poll results, where 75% wished to retain the status quo. So the venue will be The Admiral Rodney, on the evening of Tuesday 22nd March. [Date and time confirmed the next morning; cost the same as last year.]

Phil also took the opportunity to welcome the two non-committee members who had attended our first open meeting.

The question of a different venue, day and time for an LBC event is being catered for by the two Saturday afternoon meetings at Whisby: the first with the BTO and the second with the LNU on 16th January 2016. Details of both have been on the web-site and the first is fully booked.

Officers' reports:

Treasurer: absent, but a statement had been circulated. It was suggested that John Watt ask the LWT if they can provide comparative data for the previous year so that the figures can be put in context.

Secretary: A brief report was given regarding the Urban BAP group, where RC has made no progress and is unsure how we can contribute.

Sales secretary: absent; no report on this occasion.

Membership secretary: ICT problems had continued; Mike circulated a new email address. Despite the problems we do have 304 members, of whom 266 pay by direct debit; all agreed that this is a very healthy position. Mike will continue to chase non-payers.

County recorder South: nothing to report.

County recorder North: there are only four members left on the records committee (LBRC) following the retirement of Graham Catley and there was some discussion about possible additions but no real candidates emerged. There are also some matters of procedure about vetting of records via BirdTrack so that possible errors do not appear in the annual Report. John Badley suggested that we should not hesitate to publish errors we discover in subsequent reports.

Webmaster: nothing new to report: the photo album is used less and less and this part of the forum has not been upgraded for many years and will become inoperative at some stage in the future. The sightings section has been upgraded but various social media have meant that it is less frequently used than in the past. However 30,000 hits per month is not a trivial matter. There was some discussion about the role of the forum in acting as a rare bird alert and it was felt that this is neither the prime function of the forum nor that of the LBC.

Chairman: following the retirement of Graham Catley from the LBRC, Phil wished to place on record our many thanks to Graham for all that he has done for the LBC.

The question of ethnic minorities is not a priority.

The annual Report is a week behind last year so we may be able to have it ready for the AGM.

A cheque for £250 was presented to the church in Louth in a blaze of local publicity; Phil reiterated that this was a one-off payment.

AOB: Geoff Mullett has written a booklet on the Peregrines nesting on the church in Louth and John Clarkson brought a copy to the meeting. All agreed it was of a high standard and we should support this endeavour in some way. Perhaps we might provide some financial support in exchange for the LBC logo being displayed on the front page and advertise the booklet when the first (small) print run has been done. JRC will investigate further.

The joint BTO/LBC meeting: we will raffle the Binox binoculars and the nest-box camera; Phil Espin will produce a questionnaire to be placed on the chairs; Mike Harrison will bring past Reports and membership forms; LNU publications will be displayed; Andrew Chick will buy the flowers.

AGM: a number of members have asked if attendees might wear some form of name badge so that those with interests in common who have never met might more easily be identified. It was pointed out that relying on attendees to bring their own sticky label would be doomed to fail but we might issue them as they enter the room and direct non-members to the contribution box. Efficient volunteers would be needed, ideally those with ID skills of the members.

Date of next meeting: TBA later.

Meeting closed at 21:20