

## **MINUTES OF LBC COMMITTEE MEETING, 15 FEBRUARY 2017**

**Present:** Phil Espin, Phil Hyde, John Watt, John Clarkson, Bill Sterling, Andrew Chick and Robert Carr.

**Apologies for absence:** Ian Macalpine-Leny and John Badley.

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

**Matters arising:** RC had written to Geoff Mullett with an offer of financial support towards a camera to monitor peregrines. After some confusion, the matter has been resolved to the satisfaction of all: a new camera has been installed and Geoff has used the income from his booklet sales to cover the cost. RC had written to Jim Wright asking for details of his Swift nest-box proposal but no reply had been received. A second email had been sent but as a reply has still not been received, we will let the matter lapse. An email had been received from Andrew Henderson concerning the status of Grey Heron in the county: the position is not as atypical as suggested in the minutes, as the recent Report shows.

### **Officers' reports:**

**Treasurer:** JW's report had been circulated; he drew our attention to the receipts having covered the cost of publishing the Report, so there is no immediate need to raise the subscriptions. The high postage costs were incurred as we had to post the Report as it arrived too late to distribute at the AGM.

The HSBC branch we use in Horncastle is due to close and JW will look to making alternative arrangements, perhaps managing the account on-line.

Following a question from WS, we agreed that reduced senior membership started at 65 and the onus was on members to ask for the reduction as LBC has no record of the age of our members; many retired members may be happy to continue to pay the full amount.

**Secretary:** Nothing to report.

**Sales secretary:** WS's report had been circulated; sales seem to have reached a plateau. RC will find out how many copies of the 2014 Report we have in stock, in case we can reduce our order for the current Report (see below).

**Membership secretary:** Not present.

**County recorder North:** JC was concerned about the delay in dealing with submissions of LBC rarities, which was holding up the production of the Report; he will be more pro-active in future and PE will ask for volunteers of the membership of the LBRC at the AGM. The job is not onerous and should take no more than two hours a month.

**County recorder South:** Not present.

**Webmaster:** AC had contacted the company who host the GLNP website about upgrading the LBC's website but their quote was unrealistic so he contacted an IT professional for help in upgrading the forum only. The likely cost is around £200 and the committee agreed this would be money well spent.

**Chairman:** The 2015 Report is nearly ready to go to the printers. The photos have already gone and one small article needs to be written; the hope is that it will be ready to distribute at the AGM. PE emphasised that Andrew Henderson deserves great praise for his many (unpaid) hours of work on our behalf: we would be lost without him.

**AGM:** Will be on 21<sup>st</sup> March at The Rodney and BTO Director Andy Clements will be the speaker, starting at 7:30. He will speak on the use of tracking devices by the BTO. AC will organise the AGM notice as usual on the web-site and MH will post them out to members without emails.

**Buzzard-tracking sponsorship:** PE explained that he spoken that morning with Greg Conway at the BTO who is finalising his planned project this summer. He would welcome putting tags on 4 to 5 birds in Lincs and this will cost £600 per bird assuming LBC can provide access to nest sites through local ringers. AC has set this up with

Bob Shepherd. The final go-ahead should be received by the end of Feb and it may be possible to present a donation cheque to BTO at the AGM.

Nest boxes: PE said that Wally White from Louth had kindly donated 40 nest boxes to LBC for use by members. He will bring them to the AGM and they will be free for members to take away.

GLNP recent email: this had been circulated but there were no obvious possibilities for a response.

PE had approached three companies for a quote for pop-up banners; only Cupits had replied, with a figure of £190+VAT. The committee agreed to get two made, possibly in time for the AGM. Each banner will have the LBC name, logo and a photo; there was some discussion about the choice of subjects and Barn Owl and Grey Heron were chosen.

PE is organising a Grey Heron survey along the east Wolds area along with Barrie Wilkinson who manages the BTO Herons Survey for Lincolnshire; volunteers will do a vantage point survey on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> April; BTO members in E Lincs had been contacted and PE will ask for volunteers at the AGM.

We have received an email from Mark Pearson offering to give a talk; there was a short discussion and it was agreed that we don't really have a suitable slot. RC will reply to Mark giving our position.

**AOB:**

1 AC reported on the joint LBC/LNU meeting which has attracted the best ever attendance. Graham Catley's talk was excellent, as were his photos, and we are very grateful to him for this; JW has paid him.

2 AC and JC had attended the recent recorders meeting run by the LNU. There was a spirit of co-operation and our contribution was well-received. It was felt that closer ties with the LNU are in the interests of both organisations.

3 PH drew our attention to the web-site set up to monitor Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers [Woodpecker Network - Home](#). Andy Sims has written an article for the Report on the fortunes of the pair which nested on his patch last year. AC will put this link on our web-site.

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday July 25<sup>th</sup> at 19:30 at The Ship Inn, Horncastle.

**Meeting closed:** at 21:10.