

**Lincolnshire Bird Club AGM**  
**Admiral Rodney Hotel, Horncastle**  
**20 March, 2018 at 21.10 pm**

**Attendance**

P.Espin, A.Daws, W.Sterling, J.Dawson, Sally Keightley, Steve Keightley, Colin Casey, Tony Baker, Andrew Vaughan, Chris Grimshaw, Colin Jennings, Sheila Jennings, N.Watts, M.Harrison, I.Jebett, G.Rutter, A.Manley, R.Telfer, Jenny Wallace, C.Barnes, G.Steele, R.Harvey, T.Whalin, Dean Eades, Alicia Eades, R.Wardle, R.Oates, A. Henderson, R.Doan, Chris Gunn, Val Moorhouse, P.Haywood, Sally Prescott, Julie Harrison, M.Johnson, A.Chick, J.Clarkson, P.Hyde, A. Ball, J.Wright.

**Apologies for absence**

John Watt, Andy Sims, Richard Bennett, Clive Kent, Hugh Middleton.

**Minutes of 2017 AGM**

The minutes are on the website. Accepted as a true and accurate record. Signed by the chairman, Phil Espin.

**Matter arising from 2017 AGM**

The chairman said the proposed joint project with BTO involving the tagging of fledgling buzzards had not gone ahead because of a failure to obtain licenses required. No further communication had been received.

**Chairman's address (Phil Espin)**

I'd like to welcome everyone here tonight and thank all members attending this 39th AGM of LBC.

The chief business of the bird club is the production of the annual Lincolnshire Bird Report and I'm delighted that after a huge effort

by a large team the 2016 report has been received today and hopefully you all have your copy. I'd like to thank everyone involved for all their hard work and its great to come here this evening and see the fruits of it, which is all the reward the massive list of contributors look for.

At last years meeting I appealed for some new blood and support for the committee, particularly in the IT sphere and I'm very pleased to thank Colin Casey who has stepped up to assist Andrew Chick. He has completely overhauled and revamped the website and forum, changed the website membership system and introduced a great new newsletter. Making the website largely members only has boosted the membership by over 50. He's energised others like Andrew Henderson and Phil Hyde to produce an online Lincolnshire list in lieu of a new book on the Birds of Lincs which gives all members better detail on what has been seen in Lincs since the 1800s. If anyone has any comments or questions about these changes please feel free to raise them under any other business..

The committee are also grateful for the service of Robert Carr who left his role of secretary for the club last autumn. Having done 7 hard years he migrated to Kent and we wish him well down there. Thank you too, to Jim Wright who has stepped in to fill the gap and has already shown he will fill the role admirably. Jim will be formally elected unopposed into the office of Secretary in a few minutes. As will Andrew Chick into our new proposed role of IT Officer which I'll discuss in a few minutes under constitutional changes.

As we look ahead to our 40th anniversary next year in 2019, I'm pleased to announce Chris Gunn has agreed to arrange our third joint conference with BTO, which will be at Whisby on Saturday 26th January. Speakers are being finalised but if anyone has any suggestions please let me know.

We are also looking at a radical revamp of the 2017 Bird report which will come out in 2019 and I hope it will contain a full Lincolnshire list. It might also contain an article on the history of the Bird Club if anyone is interested in writing it. Over the last few years, two or three individuals have written half the report and we desperately need to expand the writing team so please speak to me, Phil Hyde, John Clarkson or Andrew Chick if you can help.

Just a couple of things I'd like to mention. Ron Hallam was a keen bird photographer from the Lincoln area who died three years ago. His executors have donated his collection of award winning nest photos from the 1950s to early 80s to the Bird Club hoping we can find a use for them. They are on the table at the back. Please have a look and let me know if you have any ideas for their use. One suggestion is Scunthorpe Museum might be interested and that sounds a good idea.

I've had a request from Robert Hall that the RSPB would like to hear from anyone interested in running a Wildlife Explorer Group for children in the Gainsborough/Market Rasen/Kirton in Lindsey area. The details are on the website but I have his phone number if anyone wants to call him about it.

Finally I'd like to thank everyone who has assisted the club in anyway this year and to all the members old and new who help to make the LBC a success. I'd like to remind you all the club has cash in the bank and we are always interested in hearing about ideas on how we might productively spend it to further the club's aims.

### **Proposed changes to the constitution**

These were outlined by the chairman as previously detailed in the notice of 2018 AGM on the website. All were approved as was an additional one to the effect that the sentence below should be added to paragraph 2.10 of the constitution: "The treasurer may

operate and have access to the club's accounts online, make payments solely, subject to a £500 daily limit, and delegate access to other officers of the committee." The reason for this change is to satisfy the requirements of HSBC for an internet bank account. In response to an observation from Colin Casey, the chairman clarified that this additional item related to the club's arrangement with HSBC, not PayPal.

The new constitution will be posted on the website as soon as possible.

### **Presentation of accounts**

These were circulated after which Andrew Chick read a report from the treasurer, John Watt, confirming that the club remains in a strong financial position. Membership subscriptions increased by 12.5 per cent, of which eight per cent is attributable to the opening of a PayPal account through which £285.90 was received, mainly from new member subscriptions. There was a fall in publication sales of 87 per cent, and demand for previous years' reports appears to be in decline. Data sales through the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership are key to the club achieving a cash surplus of £1,531.94 in the year. A miscellaneous receipt of £89 represents donations in respect of nestboxes at last year's AGM. This sum was donated to the BTO.

### **Reports from other officers**

County Recorder South Phil Hyde asked members to give consideration to arrangements for the next annual report, that for 2017. He noted that Andrew Henderson would be stepping down as Editor "as far as we know" and that renewed attention would need to be given to the format for data entry. He added that, to date, submissions for the 2017 report had been tardy.

County Recorder North John Clarkson emphasised the importance of "good quality" recording - especially for rarer species. He said that Tweets and gossip "did not quite cut it" as a means of providing authoritative, reliable and accurate data.

**Election of honorary secretary**

Jim Wright was elected unopposed.

**Election of IT officer**

Andrew Chick was elected unopposed.

**Any other motions.**

There were none.

**AOB**

There was none.

The meeting closed at 21.40