

## **Minutes of LBC Committee Meeting held at Coach & Horses, Hemingby, 7.30pm October 9, 2018**

### **1 Attendance**

Phil Espin, John Clarkson, Phil Hyde, Mike Harrison, Bill Sterling, Andrew Chick, Nick Tribe Jim Wright. Colin Casey was present for the second half of the meeting. PE offered a warm welcome to NT who is the new LNU representative on the committee.

### **2 Apologies for absence**

John Watt.

### **3 Minutes of July 24 meeting**

These were signed by PE as a true record.

### **4 Update on banking arrangements**

- a) The chairman and treasurer have not yet been reinstated as authorised cheque signatories. However, it is hoped that this matter will be resolved shortly following a resolution passed at a special meeting of the committee held earlier in the evening.
- b) It was confirmed that the club holds a single chequebook which is held by JWa.

### **6 Payments made since July meeting.**

This information is recorded in the Treasurer's statement distributed by email to committee members prior to the meeting. Pending reinstatement of PE and JWa as cheque signatories, the invoices are checked by the latter who posts cheques to AC who signs, them before posting them to JW to be countersigned.

### **7 General Data Protection Regulations**

AC confirmed that these would be posted on the website as soon possible.

### **8 Progress update on LBC annual report 2017**

PH led a comprehensive discussion with contributions from PE, JC, NT, AC and others. June 1 was set as deadline date for submitting records and November 1 for species accounts and feature articles. AC suggested that a potential article would feature 30 years' ringing data now available for Saltfleetby/Theddlethorpe. Any other articles would be welcome. Contribution of photographs is also welcome and these should be submitted to AC. PH's full update is below.

1. Draft systematic list lay-out  
Lay-out and introduction updated
2. Review of the year - James Siddle - to do
3. Species list  
35 bundles of data sent out (= 184 species)  
15 bundles of data to send (= 61 species)  
LBRC species to send out  
12 bundles of data received (= 61 species accounts)
4. BBRC 2017 accepted records extracted
5. Articles written

Analysis of migration at Gibraltar Point 1965-2017, by George Gregory, the only one to date.

To consider:

Mandt's Black Guillemot and Snowy Owl finder's reports.

### **9 Review of website**

CC acknowledged member-disquiet that some features - such as the capacity to send personal messages - had been forfeited since the website's revamp last year. AC observed that the picture sequence at the top of the page was too dominant to the detriment of the rest of the site. PE said logging in to gain access was not user-friendly on a mobile phone because the banner partially obscured the log-in boxes. JWr queried why the sightings section on the forum could not be open to viewing by non-members as had been the case with the old forum. He said this was the procedure with other bird clubs - for instance those in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire/Rutland, Sheffield and Norfolk. CC expressed doubts about 'giving away' content. He said the homepage needed to be regularly refreshed because some of it - for instance, the link to the 'latest' newsletter was now out-of-date. AC said some 'tinkering' would be beneficial.

### **10 Update on newsletter arrangements**

CC said the newsletter was an important means both of communicating with members and of retaining their interest in the club. He regretted that momentum had been lost since its relaunch 9 months ago. He underlined the value of the Google Docs format in allowing content to be shared between writers. JWr said he had encountered an issue with his (historic) computer 'freezing' when text was accompanied by photographs. CC had written up to 10 articles that were in the pipeline. PE said he had an article on his June trip to Kazakhstan. CC said that there was no need for future newsletter editions to contain as much content as in previous editions – just a couple of pages would suffice so long as publication was more frequent, preferably monthly. He undertook to oversee production of the next issue and invited submission of material before the end of this month for inclusion in the proposed November edition. JWr will step down from editing while the newsletter charts a new course.

### **11 BBRC archives**

Bill Sterling updated the committee on his work, in collaboration, with Colin Casey, on scanning historical handwritten and typed Lincolnshire rarity submissions (and illustrations) from BBRC archives for the material to be incorporated into LBC records.

### **12 Officers' reports**

a) Chairman

i) PE said he had had discussions with an Environment Agency official about repairs required at the club's regularly vandalised hide at Cut End, Witham Mouth, Boston. Steve Keightley will be having a site meeting with EA.

ii) PE reported favourably on the new North Sea observatory at Chapel Point though the potential for seawatching undercover is limited because of the sloping glass. The main focus of the warden, who oversees the facility, has been on monitoring porpoises and

other cetaceans. It is not yet known whether the premises, which include a cafe, will remain open all through the winter. The car parking charge is £3 per day.

iii) PE noted that the service provided by the Lincolnshire Records Centre was to be automated so that data would become available instantly rather than taking several days.

iv) PE reported on an American radio tracking system for tagged birds, Motus, which records any passing migrants that have been fitted with a transmitter. It is in widespread use on the Continent and is being trialled in the UK by the RSPB. He suggested that, at some point in the future, the club might wish to consider chipping in with grant aid if Motus is adopted at various sites in Lincolnshire, say at Gibraltar Point.

v) PE reported that BTO regional organiser Chris Gunn was proceeding with plans for a county-based conference at Whisby on January 26. Full details in next newsletter.

b) Treasurer

The committee noted that JWa's written update had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

c) Secretary

Nothing further to report

d) IT officer

Nothing further to report

e) Membership secretary

Apart from a flurry of recent applications, MH said the situation had been quiet. CC attributed this to lack of newsletter activity.

f) Sales secretary

BS described the situation as very quiet. Publication sales since the start of the year amounted to 29 copies. CC suggested a new initiative which would involve linking distribution of publication with membership/ recruitment arrangements. It was agreed that this should be the subject of an agenda item at the next committee meeting

g) County Recorder (north)

Nothing further to report

County Recorder (south)

Nothing further to report

### **13 Any other business**

The date of the club's AGM was set for April 2, 2019 The provisional venue will be the Admiral Rodney Hotel in Horncastle, as in previous years, but alternative locations are also under consideration. AC agreed to approach Alex Lees about being guest speaker, possibly on the subject of re-wilding.

The date of the annual joint LBC/ LNU is 2pm on January 5 at Whisby. An approach will be made to Prof Ian Newton to be a guest speaker on the subject of Farmland Birds. MH noted that the annual conference of the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership will be held in Lincoln on October 31. The theme will be: New and Innovative Ways To Make The Case for Nature. One of the speakers will be Dr Niall Burton of the BTO who will discuss potential impacts of windfarms on seabirds.

**14 Date and place of next meeting**

This will on Tuesday November 27 at the Coach and Horses pub, Hemingby.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10pm