

Minutes of Lincs Bird Club committee meeting held in the gardens of the Coach & Horses, Hemingby at 7.30 pm on August 9, 2022

1 Chairman Phil Espin welcomed attendees Phil Hyde, Mike Harrison, Bill Sterling and Jim Wright.

2 Apologies for absence were received from Andrew Chick and John Watt.

3 The minutes of the meetings below were approved.

a) Committee meeting (February 22, 2022) - posted on website

b) Special committee meeting (June 22, 2022) - minutes attached

4 There were no matters arising from these meetings

5 Banking arrangements

BS reviewed the pros and cons of three financial institutions as possible alternatives to HSBC - Ecology Building Society, Triodos Bank, Starling Bank. In the absence of JWa, the club treasurer, it was decided to defer fuller discussion until a later meeting.

6 Update on sale of Colin Casey's library

Despite extensive newsletter publicity, PH reported scant interest apart from some disposals to AC and Kev Wilson/ Gib Point observatory. He will now investigate other options - possibly selling the whole collection to a dealer.

7 Liaison meeting with Charlie Barnes

It was agreed to seek a meeting with Charlie Barnes of the GLNP to commence data procedures for producing LBR2021.

8 Appeal for funding

Committee agreed unanimously to award a £250 grant to Prof Martin Collinson of the Aberdeen Forensic Wildlife Lab to support its analysis activities which, in the past, has included analyses of an Eastern Subalpine Warbler at Gib Point observatory (April 2019), the East Halton gull (winter/spring 2022) and Snowy Owl pellets (Wainfleet Marsh, 2018).

9 Reports from LBC outdoor events:

- a) Alkborough, June 11 - Joy Croot's report appeared in June newsletter.
- b) Donna Nook, July 2 - PE reported that a total of eight LBC members attended two separate morning walks. BS suggested that the public should have been invited, but PE noted that they were held primarily as an LBC membership benefit.
- c) Sea trip out of Grimsby, August 6 (PE/ PH) - PE said a report would be submitted for the September newsletter.

10 Update on forthcoming RSPB Frampton barbecue

So far, there has been limited interest (bookings from only five members), but it is expected to pick up nearer the time (September 3), especially with further publicity in a proposed special mid-August edition of the newsletter/ on the website forum.

11 Heritage Lincolnshire event: *Departed Glory - The Great Bustard and other Lost Birds of Lincolnshire*

Committed noted the forthcoming free-admission talk (Grimsby Town Hall, 11am, September 17) by PE as part of countywide Heritage Lincolnshire programme. JWr, who will also attend, noted that Louth Museum had turned down a request for the loan of their mounted great bustard specimen. PE suggested JWr should seek to borrow and wear the fancy-dress costume used

to feed newly hatched Bustard chicks from the Great Bustard Group in Wiltshire.

12 Global Birdfair

PE provided a verbal update. It was a worthwhile pilot exercise because it further raised the profile of the club, generated sales of *Birds of Lincolnshire* and serve as a focal point for visiting club members and others interested in the birdlife of the county, past and present. It was also the launchpad for the *Lincolnshire Birding Trail* - a joint online/print initiative with VisitLincolnshire. PE noted that the venture had been time-consuming and would not have been feasible without the financial support of VisitLincolnshire which paid for the stand. PH commended the appearance of the stand. Committee thanked PE for his endeavours (and stamina) both in arranging our representation at this prestigious event and for attending all three days.

13 Provisional arrangements - venues/ dates/ times/ speakers etc for future events:

- a) The club is awaiting contact from the LNU re the annual joint meeting (with speaker) in January.
- b) Several names (for instance, Josh Jones, Dawn Balmer and Tim Mackrill) were mentioned, but no decision was made re approaching a speaker for our AGM in spring. BS asked it might be worth considering a theme - for instance, the outbreak of avian flu and its consequences, particularly on seabird colonies. PH commented that images of dead birds would prove distasteful. The question of a speaker/ venue/ date/time will be re-considered at our autumn meeting.

14 Heritage Lottery/ NELC grant update

LBC has received a grant of £855 to be spent on

- a) Purchase of Epson projector for use by club members in presentations (this has been bought online from John Lewis)

b) Publication of 200 copies of a booklet, *Birds of North East Lincolnshire Past and Present* (currently at printers). This will be distributed partly by sale, partly in the form of complimentary copies.

15 End of season update on peregrine-monitoring cameras.

PE reported that four chicks had fledged at St James, Louth, but none at St Wulfram's, Grantham (the expected birds may have been the ones that nested in Stamford).

There was no news on whether the cameras will be permitted at Louth in 2023, nor on the extent of donations (if any) to LBC from the public.

16 Photograph exhibitions

JWr reported that a new LBC member in Healing has suggested that we might consider staging occasional photograph exhibitions at galleries/ museums/ libraries in the county as a way a) of showcasing individual members' work and b) promoting the club/ birding. Because of the resources required, the committee decided not to pursue this unless a member steps forward to organise it.

17 Suggestions from Toby Collett

The committee welcomed two valuable suggestions from Toby Collett. However, because of the short notice, the club may not be able to instigate action for the time being. In the meantime, committee agreed he should be invited to submit detailed written proposals (including costings). His suggestions are as follows:

a) Re the BBQ @ Frampton, have you considered a discounted rate for young attendees? Not sure what age but as well as partners, members may wish to bring along children or grandchildren for a reduced rate. Do we have reduced rates across the board for junior LBC members or any junior incentives? Thinking along the lines of what Spurn do to engage their younger birders.

b) Lincolnshire Bird of the Year award. Is this something that the LBC could do? Bird or Find of the Year? Be nice to encourage engagement and have an awards day at either the AGM or birders' day out. (Note - Suffolk Bird Club already has such a scheme.)

18 To review continuation of Sightings section on website/ newsletter (as discussed via email by Chris Grimshaw, PH & AC with other committee members copied in).

Committee noted an analysis by AC revealing that this was the most valued and most regularly read section of the website forum. It is sincerely hoped that CG will continue to provide this much-appreciated service.

19 Officers' reports

a) Chairman

i) PE reported that the club had received a letter of thanks from the Lincs Wildlife Trust for the donation of £1,000 towards proposed installation of a Motus bird-tracking aerial at Gibraltar Point. However, it is not yet known when this project will proceed. ii) A letter of thanks had been received from the British Library for supply of a copy of *Birds of Lincolnshire* iii) Committee agreed his suggestion that complimentary copies of *Birds of Lincolnshire* should be offered to the library services in Lincolnshire North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire (one per branch - PE, BS & JWr to arrange deliveries).

Treasurer: JWa submitted a written report

c) Secretary: None

d) Membership secretary: MH provided verbal update

e) Sales secretary: BS provided verbal and written update

f) County recorder: PH reported satisfactory progress in preparation of 2022 report

g) IT officer/ newsletter editor: None

19 Any other urgent business

MH noted that a member, Alan Ball, had expressed concern that Lincolnshire might lose most of its last breeding curlews because, under licence, eggs were being taken from nests at RAF airfields and relocated to counties such as Shropshire. It was agreed that further information should be sought of AB.

20 Date/time/venue of next committee meeting

This was arranged for 7.30pm on Tuesday October 11, probably via Zoom

There being no further business, the chairman closed the meeting at 21.00.