

## **LBC committee meeting (via Zoom) agenda: 7.30pm February 21, 2023**

### **1 Chairman's welcome**

Phil Espin welcomed committee members Mike Harrison, Bill Sterling, Andrew Chick, John Watt, Phil Hyde, Phil Porter, Jim Wright and prospective new club treasurer Jon Cooper.

### **2 Apologies for absence**

Kev Wilson was unable to access the meeting for technical reasons.

### **3 Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of committee held via Zoom on December 20, 2022, were approved.

### **4 Matters arising from December meeting**

a) Rinfret of Woodhall Spa has scanned past LBC bird reports from 1977 to 2019 and suggested a method for it to be accessed and made searchable by an external provider. PH and AC had reviewed a specimen scanned 2019 report. AC expressed concern about pop up ads outside our control some of which might be inappropriate. PE said he would send out the example for member-comment and suggested the adverts could be handled by a disclaimer. If need be, we will ask Rinfret to suggest other options.

b) KW was unable to attend the meeting so no update was available re proposed Motus migrant-tracking equipment at Gib Point. Subsequently KW provided a report to the effect good progress is being made and a purchase order has been issued to Lincs Radios of Grimsby to erect the receiver.

### **5 Vacancy for events organiser.**

There have been no volunteers, and a fresh appeal will be made at the AGM and or via the newsletter/Forum.

### **6 Curlews: removal of eggs on RAF airfields in Lincolnshire.**

PE updated the committee about the response to LBC's concerns about the threat to Lincolnshire's breeding curlew population in the wake of relocation of eggs to Norfolk and Devon via a Natural England head-starting project. Further conversations are planned with interested parties including the BTO, five members of LBC who responded to the request for support in the Feb newsletter (including a Natural England officer) and the Curlew Recovery Partnership. PE will provide a further update (if available) at the AGM on April 1.

### **7 Joint LBC/LNU meeting**

The committee heard that feedback from joint LBC/ LNU meeting (January 14, 2023 at Whisby) had been positive. Some 30 members of the two organisations had enjoyed PE's presentation on the historical status of the Great Bustard in Lincolnshire and the prospects (if any) of its return. PE would welcome any further information about the past existence of droves in Thorganby and South Rauceby. PAH suggested that Keith Naylor of British Birds Rarities Committee might be able to assist.

### **8a Programme/ timings for AGM and members' day at Whisby (Saturday April 1, 2023).**

These were confirmed as follows:

- i. 10 am Birding on site, followed at noon by lunch, provided by attendees themselves
- ii. 2pm Presentation by Nick Williams on nesting of rare birds in south of county
- ii. 3pm Formal business of AGM

### **8b Formal announcement of AGM (with invitation to submit propositions).**

This will be posted on the website Forum/ newsletter. BS agreed to post hard copies to those 9 members, without internet/social media access

### **8c Pre-AGM arrangements**

- i. There will be no formal guided birding walks.
- ii. Publication of formal agenda on website and in newsletter (as 8b)

iii. It was resolved not to publicise the meeting beyond the membership because the capacity of Whisby Education Centre is 55 only.

Note Vicky Buckberry at Whisby has confirmed we have use of Kingfisher room all day, with free coffee/tea. A projector and screen will be provided in house.

#### 9 Gay Birders' Club

The GBC will be holding its AGM/ dinner at the Savoy Hotel, Skegness, on October 6, 2023. Kev Wilson has agreed to give a talk about Gib Point. The LBC has no plans at present to stage a welcome event, but remains open to suggestions.

#### 10 Scottish Bird Safari

JWr updated proposed joint LBC/ Cairngorm Travel four-night Scottish Bird Safari in the Highlands - setting off on April 28, 2023. The offer is being extended to Grimsby RSPB and Lincoln RSPB members.

#### 11 Public Liability Insurance

Following strong endorsement from JWa, committee agreed that PLI should be renewed on when it falls due on March 20. (Note- last year's premium was £375)

#### 12 Attendance at heritage event

Committee noted that BS and JWr will represent LBC at a Heritage Lincolnshire event on the afternoon of March 7 at Centre 4 in Grimsby (the venue has been changed from Grimsby Town FC) with the aim of promoting the club, selling publications and recruiting members. PE agreed to liaise with BS about supply of materials including the SumUp credit card reader for receipt of payments.

#### 13 Membership invitation leaflets

Committee decided not to commission reprint of 200-300 copies membership leaflets which are now deemed to be out of date. Instead, AC will ask Neil Smith if he is able to design a new membership leaflet. MH suggested the time may have come to review subscription rates which have not changed for many years. This will be an item for the AGM in 2024.

#### 14 Sponsorship request

In response to an appeal by Mike Dawson of Swallowtail Print (printer of LBC publications) for sponsorship re his firm's participation in Champions of the Flyway event in Eilat in March, committee agreed a donation to BirdLife International of £100. MD will be invited to submit a news item about the project for the March newsletter as members of the club may also wish to donate individually.

#### 15 Officers' reports:

a) Chairman: PE noted that when our £137 subscription with Zoom expires next January, it would be worth transferring to an alternative provider, Microsoft teams, for which there is no subscription.

b) County recorder: PH supplemented his previously submitted report with further comments. Writing of the 2021 annual bird report has been delayed but should be finished by the end of April. Publication will follow in May/June. PH has updated the website Lincolnshire List with new data and pictures. He asked committee members to check for any inaccuracies,. Committee members noted with regret that PH may be stepping down from the county recorder's position 12 month' hence or thereafter (he is moving to Northumberland). He was thanked by PE for all his invaluable work over many years.

c) Treasurer: JWa noted that there had been a system failure at LWT re direct debit membership renewal payments affecting around 8 members. However, he understood that was now in the process of being resolved. He will be further advising new treasurer JC re the forthcoming handover. HSBC Bank will need to be updated re amended cheque signatories.

d) Secretary: Nothing further to report

e) Membership secretary: MH noted that the period since December had been quiet for new memberships

f) Sales secretary: BS supplemented his previously submitted written verbal report with further comments, noting that sale of publications was declining annually. He asked that the print run for the next annual report (for the 2021 report it was 550) should be aligned to reflect likely sales. BS further reminded the committee that the number of pages affected weight and hence the price of postage.

g) IT officer/ newsletter editor: AC reported that the Peregrine webcams at Louth and Grantham were due to go live to coincide with the nesting season. Breeding is already evident at St James, Louth, but not at St Wulfram's Grantham. Asked by JWr about similar webcam initiatives under consideration by North East Lincolnshire Council for its wetland bird mitigation sites at Cress Marsh and Novartis Ings, AC advised of the various technical challenges that would be involved, not least supply of electricity and Wifi to these remote locations.

#### 16 Any other business

MH asked if the club has been notified about the Countryside Lincs event ( <https://lincolnshireshowground.co.uk/countryside-lincs> ) to be held at the Lincolnshire Showground on April 23. Last year LBC mounted a stand, which proved to be popular with visitors of all ages - not least because it featured free publication handouts and a prize quiz. In the event of an approach, the club will need to decide whether to return for a second year. Following further comments from MH and BS, it was agreed that, if we attend, it would be better for our stand to be located adjacent to those of other conservation-related organisations, perhaps within an outdoor gazebo.

#### 17 Date/time/venue of next committee meeting.

Provisionally arranged for July 18, 2023, either in the gardens of the Coach and Horse pub in Hemingby or over the internet via Zoom.

There being no further business, the chairman thanked committee members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.01pm.