



## Welsh Ornithological Society

### Minutes of the Council meeting at Plas Dolerw on Saturday, 10 March 2012

**Present:** Anne Brenchley, Mick Green, Bob Haycock, Julian Hughes, John Jones, Kelvin Jones, Derek Moore, Ian M Spence, Steph Tyler, Alan Williams

**Apologies:** Richard Facey, Pete Jennings, Reg Thorpe

**12.01 Minutes of the meeting of 26 November 2011**

Accepted.

**12.02 Matters arising**

**11.16 Resignation of John Lloyd**

IMS reported that he had written to John and received a thanking email.

**11.26 Amendments to Constitution**

AW reported that the Charity Commissioners were happy with the amendments.

**11.32 Amendments to draft minutes of AGM of 12 November 2011**

Done.

**11.33 Treasurer to chase a subscription**

An overdue Affiliate member society has had a change of personnel but a subscription is likely to be paid in the near future.

**11.34 Biography of Prof JH Salter**

No electronic file has been received – so no further action.

**11.42.5 New membership forms**

These have been printed and were available at the meeting.

<b>To make the new membership forms available to all and sundry wherever possible.</b>	<b>All</b>
--	------------

**12.03 Chairman's report**

Nothing to report.

**12.04 Treasurer's report**

The income and expenditure report had been emailed to all. Despite giving away £1000 in grants there has been a surplus, so no need to use any reserves.

Currently 189 members have renewed their subscriptions for this year (110 by Standing Order). Many are slow to pay even after having received a reminder.

<b>To request, in e-Newsletter that members sign up for a Standing Order which is easy to administer using internet banking facilities.</b>	<b>JH</b>
---	-----------

We were very grateful to have received the cheque from Swarovski to sponsor the 2012 conference.

The society is currently in a healthy financial position.

**12.05 Editor's report**

---

Reports from last year's grants will be included in the next Birds in Wales with some other papers that have been received.

MG raised the issue of the appearance of Birds in Wales which he thinks looks dated. He recommended changes to Arial font and for the overall design and presentation of figures to be improved. He told the meeting that Tony Cross would be willing to prepare the material for the printer. IMS reminded Council that he had made such an offer some time ago. There was discussion about the requirements for photographs to be published at good quality and that requirements should be made known to photographers.

<b>To draft suggestions for photographers who contribute photographs to be included in Birds in Wales about the size of file needed, etc.</b>	<b>IMS</b>
<b>To send the draft journal to TC (or IMS) for typesetting.</b>	<b>ST</b>

## 12.06

### Secretary's report

IMS reported on a recent meeting of the Wales Bird Conservation Forum which is trying to affect policy for the benefit of the conservation of birds in Wales. IMS asked if the WBCF papers could be made available to a wide audience on the WOS website. It was agreed that to make the papers available in this way would be an appropriate role for the WOS.

<b>To ask RSPB Cymru for copies of the WBCF papers to make them available on the WOS website.</b>	<b>JH</b>
<b>To provide examples of instances of new woodlands that have been planted on land that has other, perhaps more important, conservation value than as woodland. Examples to be sent to the Secretary to inform RSPB and CCW.</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>To publicise the woodland issues in the e-Newsletter to seek other instances.</b>	<b>JH</b>

IMS provided a brief report on the recent BTO Regional Reps meeting that he attended as an observer. See item, below, about seeking partnership with the BTO.

## 12.07

### Conference 2012

DM talked about the Myddfai Community Centre which will be the venue for the 2012 conference. It is available at £20 per hour. There was discussion about various issues arising from consideration of the planning of the conference and its programme of speakers. There is limited parking, so we should do what we can to promote car-sharing. Roy Dennis has agreed to come to give a talk, but required a fee – this led to seeking sponsorship for the conference (see Treasurer's report, above). The programme was completed, subject to speakers being available.

<b>To ask Tim Norgate if he has a gazebo in which to display the Swarovski optical equipment.</b>	<b>IMS</b>
<b>To adjust the flier to seek consent for sharing address information to promote car-sharing by those who will attend.</b>	<b>IMS, JH</b>
<b>To check the maximum number that can be seated in the Hall (with space for displays etc).</b>	<b>DM</b>
<b>To ask for a RSPB person to talk about 'Out of Africa' to complement the talk on cuckoos.</b>	<b>JH</b>
<b>To ask Jon Green to talk about migration and rare birds and how some of them become common.</b>	<b>BH</b>
<b>To ask Tim Guilford at the EGI to talk about Manx Shearwater.</b>	<b>BH</b>

It was agreed to keep the ticket prices the same as last year (£21 for members, £26 for non-members).

DM suggested requesting a member of the Carmarthenshire Bird Club, Wendel Thomas, to lead a walk near the coast on the Sunday morning after the conference.

<b>To make the request for a walk on the Sunday.</b>	<b>DM</b>
<b>To modify the flier to ask who would wish to join such a walk to see birds near the coast on the Sunday.</b>	<b>IMS, JH</b>
<b>To sort out the design of the flier for the conference.</b>	<b>JH</b>

**12.08 Small grants**

ST reported that there had only been three requests for grants, with two coming from the same source, but for different projects. It was thought that all three were suitable requests. With the beneficial financial position, we could afford to provide more funding this year. After some discussion it was agreed, subject to some further detail about one project, that each should be awarded £500.

<b>To prepare a press release about the three projects to be released about June.</b>	<b>JH</b>
<b>To consider lodging a press release in Wildlife Extra.</b>	<b>JH</b>

**12.09 Proposal for WOS to seek to become a partner with the BTO.**

IMS spoke to this proposal, for WOS to be a recognised partner with BirdTrack and the Chat Survey in the first instance. There could be mutual benefits from such an arrangements both in relation to data gathering and seeking funding by grants. DM said that he would like to have a Memorandum of Understanding between WOS and the BTO.

<b>To draft a request to the BTO for DM to send.</b>	<b>IMS</b>
<b>To arrange to meet with Andy Clements at the end of March while he is visiting Wales.</b>	<b>KHJ, DM, IMS</b>

**12.10 BTO Cymru**

KHJ reported that BTO Cymru has now been in existence for 10 months and Rachel Taylor started in October 2011. There has been an increase in BTO membership in Wales of 5.9% (higher than the rest of the UK).

KHJ has attended many events during these first months but they are not all financially viable, so he will be attending fewer this year.

The pilot year of the Chat survey is due to go live soon. It will be an online survey and observers will soon be able to request squares in a similar fashion to requesting TTVs with the Atlas.

There will be a project with Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd in Welsh only.

**12.11 WOS responses to Welsh Government consultations**

There was discussion about how best to provide a consultation response to each of the papers 'Sustaining a Living Wales' and 'Natural Resources Wales'. The feeling was that the papers generally are about promoting development not about conserving or promoting wildlife.

<b>To find out what other organisations are preparing and provide feedback to Council to assist us prepare a response.</b>	<b>MG, BH, DM</b>
--	-------------------

**12.12 Welsh Record Panel**

No report

**Welsh Rare Breeding Bird and Raptor Study Group**

KHJ reported that there had been two meetings recently with CCW about licensing and consultation issues.

There is a need to bring all fieldworkers who are natural members of this group, perhaps for a raptor conference.

### 12.13 WOS e-media

JH asked for comments on the questions he raised in his report about e-media emailed to all before the meeting. During discussion some issues arose including the need for some parts of the website to be in Welsh, if a Welsh language URL is used in the future.

<b>To respond to an email from the National Library of Wales about archiving the WOS website.</b>	<b>IMS</b>
<b>To produce an Affiliate newsletter twice a year, about the start of April and October.</b>	<b>DM, JH</b>

JH was thanked for the work he had done to vastly improve the website over the original.

### 12.14 Any other business

#### 12.14.1 WOS Awards

JH had sent round a paper about the awards and there was some discussion. It was agreed that there should be a WOS Lifetime Achievement Award and an Annual Award.

<b>To put into the conference programme a 10 minute slot for presentation of the Awards.</b>	<b>JH</b>
<b>To order some awards.</b>	<b>JH</b>
<b>To publicise that nominations with a 250 word proposal should be submitted to Council.</b>	<b>JH</b>

#### 12.14.2 Ring Ouzel survey

MG asked for any volunteers to assist with the survey.

<b>To put an appeal in the next e-Newsletter.</b>	<b>JH</b>
---	-----------

#### 12.14.3 WRP data

Currently all WRP data are held on Jon Green's personal computer. He was requesting a hard drive on with the data could be stored and passed on to another person when necessary.

<b>To inform JG that he may seek a drive costing less than £99 to this purpose.</b>	<b>BH</b>
---	-----------

Ian M Spence  
12 March 2012  
Amended 8 July 2012