



## Welsh Ornithological Society

### Minutes of the Council meeting at Plas Dolerw on Saturday, 7 July 2012

**Present:** Anne Brenchley, Richard Facey, Mick Green, Bob Haycock, Julian Hughes, Kelvin Jones, Ian M Spence, Reg Thorpe, Alan Williams, Iolo Williams

**Apologies:** John Jones, Derek Moore, Steph Tyler

#### 12.15 Minutes of last meeting

12.04 Modify wording  
12.07 Change to 'Tim Guilford'

With these changes the minutes of the meeting of 10 March 2012 were accepted.

#### 12.16 Matters arising

##### 11.42.5 New membership forms

Council members were encouraged to take more forms and get them to people.

<b>To email a PDF version of the form to RSPB staff.</b>	<b>RT</b>
--	-----------

##### 12.05 Editor's report

<b>To send technical requirements of photos to ST/JH.</b>	<b>IMS</b>
<b>To confirm with an author that a photo of Merlin at the nest was taken with the appropriate Schedule 1 licence.</b>	<b>IMS</b>
<b>To add to advice for authors that photographs of Schedule 1 species at the nest must be done with a licence for the photo to appear in a WOS publication.</b>	<b>ST</b>

##### 12.06 Secretary's report

Not all the WBCF documents have yet been made available but permissions are being sought.

<b>To put an appeal for examples of misplanting of trees on land with other conservation value to be sent to IMS on the website.</b>	<b>JH</b>
--	-----------

##### 12.11 WOS responses to Welsh Government consultations

Responses have been submitted and their receipt acknowledged. MG was thanked for his efforts.

<b>To monitor developments in the area of the Single Body and Living Wales and raise any issues for WOS to be able to respond and comment.</b>	<b>All</b>
--	------------

##### 12.13 WOS e-media

IMS contacted the National Library of Wales and there remains a problem of obtaining the agreement of all photographers for WOS to have its website archived.

<b>To ask the National Library of Wales how they expect us to deal with this issue.</b>	<b>IMS</b>
---	------------

An Affiliate Newsletter was published shortly after the last Council meeting.

### 12.14.3 WRP data

Jon Green has published a hard drive on which to back-up WRP data (cost c £67).

### 12.17 Treasurer's report

Accounts had been sent out and AW briefly went through the key issues. The current prediction is that if the Conference breaks even then the end of year accounts should also break even.

<b>To check why the Bangor Bird Group has not continued with its Affiliate membership.</b>	<b>IMS</b>
<b>To check with the Pembrokeshire Bird Group and its host Wildlife Trust if a way can be found for the Bird Group to become an Affiliate member.</b>	<b>BH</b>
<b>To send balances to IMS to include them in the minutes.</b>	<b>AW</b>

### 12.18 Editor's report

Birds in Wales 9-1 has been typeset by IMS and is nearly ready to go to the printer.

<b>To print 320 copies of Birds in Wales 9-1.</b>	<b>ST</b>
<b>To ask if Ynyslas could be a possible sales outlet for WOS publications.</b>	<b>MG</b>
<b>To investigate the possibility of selling individual papers as PDF files from the website.</b>	<b>JH, AW</b>
<b>To clarify with Rhion Pritchard that he will produce the bird report for 2011.</b>	<b>JH</b>
<b>To offer the assistance of the usual contributors with BH and RF to prepare the 2011 Welsh Bird Report.</b>	<b>JH</b>

Unfortunately, there will be no contribution to the Welsh Bird Report from NE Wales in time for the 2011 report. A two year report should be ready in time for the 2012 report.

### 12.19 Conference 2012

<b>To check for the correct Swarovski Optik logo and send it to JH.</b>	<b>IMS</b>
<b>Change the programme to 'Introduction and round up' by IW.</b>	<b>JH</b>
<b>Collect 250 word biographies as Word files from the speakers and explain about travel expenses.</b>	<b>DM</b>
<b>To make an expanded programme and biographies available for collection at the conference.</b>	<b>IMS, JH</b>
<b>To add a question about interest in car-sharing to the booking form.</b>	<b>JH</b>
<b>To receive booking forms, maintain spreadsheet of attenders and facilitate car-sharing.</b>	<b>IMS, AB</b>
<b>To check the titles of all talks with DM.</b>	<b>JH</b>
<b>For the booking form to include a reduced timetable for the day but with full details available on the website and on paper at the conference.</b>	<b>JH</b>
<b>To check with Dee Doody if he wishes to bring paintings for sale.</b>	<b>DM</b>

Chairs of sessions were agreed and jobs for the day were allocated (see separate document).

**12.20 Conference 2013**

This will be a joint conference with the Gwent OS (celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary) and will take place at the Bridges Centre, Monmouth on Saturday, 2 November 2013.

**12.21 WOS awards**

Council had received several nominations for both 'Lifetime Achievement' and 'Conservation' Awards. Various issues arose from the nominations and the quality of supporting texts. During the discussion it became clear that there were uncertainties about how to distinguish between the two categories.

For the Lifetime Achievement Award, three people were considered to be suitable to the award, this first year – Peter Hope Jones, Graham Rees and Mike Shrubb.

It was agreed that any person not accepted for an award this year could be nominated again in a subsequent year.

<b>To reconsider the criteria for the Conservation Award.</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>To email ideas/criteria for a WOS Award related to conservation to JH.</b>	<b>BH</b>
<b>To email ideas/criteria for a WOS Award related to significant work done by students to JH.</b>	<b>RF</b>

**12.22 Small grants 2012**

Three people/groups have received grants this year.

<b>To produce a press release about the 2012 funded projects during July</b>	<b>JH (with ST)</b>
--	-----------------------------

**12.23 Proposal for WOS to become a BirdTrack partner with the BTO and others.**

There was some discussion then the proposal was agreed unanimously.

There were some issues raised in relation to para 10.4 of the partnership agreement. The people who attend the Partner meetings were asked to clarify that WOS was not able to make agreements on behalf of the bird clubs or Recorders in Wales.

<b>To seek clarification of the meaning of para 10.4.</b>	<b>DM, IMS</b>
<b>Council members willing to represent WOS at Partner meetings.</b>	<b>IMS, RF, BH</b>
<b>To make BirdTrack a standing item on the agenda for Council meetings.</b>	<b>IMS</b>
<b>To check with Nick Moran if there is a 'demo' version of BirdTrack that could be used without an internet connection, for use at the Conference.</b>	<b>IMS</b>
<b>To announce the partnership at the BirdFair, in liaison with the BTO.</b>	<b>DM, JH, AW, KJ</b>

**12.24 BTO Cymru**

KJ reported that the Chat survey was conducted by a satisfactory number of observers but that the weather had adversely affected progress. It may be repeated in Wales next year when it will be launched as a national (UK) survey. Feedback on the website would be welcomed by the BTO.

KJ reported that there had been increased BBS coverage in Wales as a result of courses and mentoring. There is a need to reconsider how the survey and support for it are publicised to attract people with realistic expectations.

<b>To inform Council of species that would be good to survey in Wales and what lead-in</b>	<b>KJ</b>
--	-----------

<b>time is needed for a formal survey by the BTO.</b>	
<b>To consider one or more appropriate species for a survey.</b>	<b>All</b>

**12.25 Membership promotion**

DM has said that he will prepare a membership strategy for the November Council meeting. IW and MG are also interested in assisting its development.

<b>To send any ideas for membership promotion to DM.</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>To assist DM consider ideas for membership promotion.</b>	<b>IW, MG</b>

There was some discussion and mention of some issues to consider:

- Possibility of a student membership rate.
- Clarify benefits of membership and rates.
- PR issues.
- Who do we wish to have as our key audience?
- What will/do we do for them?

**12.26 Data Protection and Privacy Policy notice**

This item was for information – AW and JH have prepared a document (circulated before the meeting) about these issues. An example of its effect is that the spreadsheet used to record conference bookings must be deleted within three months of the conference date.

**12.27 Ideas for a Welsh birdwatching activity**

The opening of the Welsh coastal path was a first as a national event with mass participation in gathering bird records from the area of the path. Do we wish to promote an event that seeks to engage the wider public in identifying birds?

<b>To send ideas or willingness to assist to JH.</b>	<b>All</b>
--	------------

**12.28 Gather data from tetrad atlases to combine in an all-Wales presentation**

IMS explained what he was seeking to achieve – to show what has been observed in as many areas of Wales during the national Atlas fieldwork on one map per species to try to obtain a whole Wales view and to consider how best to encourage fieldwork in the areas without tetrad records for the next national Atlas.

There was agreement for IMS to progress with this when the North Wales Breeding Bird Atlas has been sent to the publisher.

**12.29 WRP**

The draft report for 2011 has been sent out for comment. It is due to be published on the website in October 2012.

**12.30 WRBBSG**

KJ wishes to prepare a flier to seek a meeting of all raptor workers across Wales. He expects to give this out at the Conference in November.

**12.31 WOS e-media**

JH had emailed a report prior to the meeting and led some discussion of issues within it.

<b>To complete a new checklist of the birds of Wales in the latest BOU order by the end of August, enabling press release.</b>	<b>RT</b>
--	-----------

**12.32 Dates of meetings in 2013**

All Saturdays: 9 March, 6 July, 2 November (Conference), 16 November

**12.33 Any other business**

**12.33.1 Resignation of Pete Jennings**

Pete's resignation was acknowledged and there was some discussion about a replacement Council member.

<b>To contact Carlton Parry to ask if he would be willing to seek nomination and election at the next Conference.</b>	<b>DM</b>
---	-----------

**12.33.2 Council meetings**

<b>To consider whether we need to meet quarterly in future in order to deal more timely with all the issues that arise.</b>	<b>All</b>
---	------------

Ian M Spence  
8 July 2012