



Welsh Ornithological Society

Minutes of the Council meeting at Plas Dolerw on Saturday, 6 July 2013

Present: Anne Brenchley, Mick Green, Bob Haycock, Julian Hughes, Kelvin Jones, Derek Moore, Carlton Parry, Ian Spence, Reg Thorpe, Alan Williams.

Apologies: Richard Facey, Steph Tyler, Iolo Williams.

13.19 Minutes of meeting of 9 March 2013

Accepted

13.20 Matters arising

12.13 WOS e-media

Without the permission of photographers to have their photos archived the Museum cannot archive the WOS website. No further action.

12.51.1 Hedge cutting

DM reported that legislation is in place but there is a problem getting people to enforce it. BH reported that in Pembs there is a satisfactory agreement with the council that cutting will only happen at junctions or dangerous bends during the summer period.

DM has asked a solicitor friend, Ben West, to be coopted to Council and though willing he was not able to attend this meeting.

The State of Nature report has been published.

13.03 Treasurer's report

Need to prepare a paragraph for Y Barcud that promotes our conference. We need to know the publication deadline.

To find out the publication deadlines for Y Barcud.	RT
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13.04 Conference 2013

Swarovski is unwilling to sponsor our conference again.

13.08 WOS small grants

Nobody present knew if a report on his project had been prepared and sent to WOS by Jon Rowe, North Wales Wildlife Trust.

13.10 Proposal for reciprocal advertising with British Birds

Progress unknown.

In future we will get some leaflets to Natur Cymru for distribution. It was suggested that they be sent out in an edition with an article summarising the WOS funded projects so far.

To contact James Robertson about such an article, or possibly an edition focused on birds and ask for our leaflets to go out with that edition.	DM
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To ask for extra Natur Cymru leaflets to take to our conference.	DM
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13.11 Report from the Bird Conservation forum

JH reported that as no new papers had been available for the page on the WOS website, that page had been removed.

MG had attended a meeting about Natura 2000 sites which as attended mainly by NRW staff and focussed on process not on actions to protect wildlife. The focus of the discussion was the uplands and how to deem them in favourable condition.

There was discussion about several issues raised.

To consider the agenda for the next meeting and determine if such a meeting would be a good use of WOS volunteer time and to consider if influencing progress may be possible.	AB, MG
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13.13 Surveys

To write a paper about surveys WOS could promote and undertake.	AB
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13.18.1 Pledge to fledge

There was discussion about the pledge and WOS being involved with encouraging people to engage with wildlife/birds.

13.21 Treasurer's report

We now have to send the Charity Commissioners a report and accounts. The report and accounts have been prepared and signed off.

The finance are in a satisfactory position.

There are now eight paid up Affiliate Members.

To send Standing Order forms to all members of WOS.	AW
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13.22 Conference 2013

AW checked with us about the cost of catering at the conference. He was thinking of us having a lunch that would have cost considerably more than we have paid previously.

To arrange for lunches at £14 per head.	AW
To invite Subbuteo to attend the conference.	IMS
To arrange for a walk with a local birder on the Sunday after the conference.	AW
To email Nigel Clark about the revision to the title of his talk.	IMS
To email Tony Fox about the title of his talk and check about his likely transport	IMS
To purchase an extended lead from laptop to projector.	IMS
To check if the hall has its own sound system for speakers to use.	AW

JH made notes about programme details to include in the conference flier and programme.

13.23 Conference 2014

Council members were not impressed with the menu provided by Glyndwr University. If they could not provide more like we are used to then to find another venue.

To send details of Plas Tan y Bwlch to IMS.	KHJ
To send a menu like we had at Myddfai to ask if Glyndwr could provide it at the cost we expect.	IMS

13.24 Succession planning for officers

DM would like us to arrange this in a sensible manner that does not require any constitutional changes.

To arrange a paper about whose term of office will finish in which year for the next meeting.	IMS
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13.25 Lifetime Achievement Awards

To arrange for nominations to be received by 31 August.	JH
To ask if people wish to update any existing nominations.	JH

13.26 WOS small grants

AW has sent out cheques for projects. There was concern about lack of activity in relation one current project for which funding has been received and the possible lack of report on one from the first year.

To add a clause to the project agreement that funding will be given 50% up front and 50% on receipt of report and paper to publish in Birds in Wales.	ST
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13.27 Student Award

IMS had not received an email from RF prior to the meeting.

To update his email address on all WOS documents.	IMS
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Two nominations had been received. On reading and considering them one was approved.

To present award to Stacey Melia for her Osprey study.	RF
To ask her to prepare a poster for the conference to which she is invited in order to receive her award.	RF

RF has sent an email about issues to consider for next year to try to attract more entries. We need guidance from RF about these issues though the timing of the submission of the entry near finals needs to be reconsidered.

13.28 WOS merchandise

No information about progress was available. It would be helpful if, at least, Council members could model some clothing at the conference.

13.29 BirdTrack

IMS and BH reported about BirdTrack and the workshop on the scientific uses of BT data to be held during the 2013/14 winter.

To arrange a small workshop on behalf of WOS with Nick Moran and invited county bird recorders on the day after the Pembrokeshire conference.	BH
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There was some discussion about issues relating to BT data and what happened to the bird records under certain circumstances, particularly in relation to verification. This may have a bearing on the quality of the national archive of records held by the BTO.

To check with Nick Moran about the issue of what happens to records that are marked as 'do not inform the Recorder'.	IMS
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13.30 BTO Cymru

If all allocated BBS squares are completed there will have been about 396 surveyed in 2013. This is a large increase on recent years.

BTO membership in Wales is about 1,000.

The Chat survey has been done in about 350 squares across the last two years.

13.31.1 Welsh Records Panel

Nothing to report.

13.31.2 Welsh Rare Breeding Birds and Raptor Study Group

Another all-Wales meeting is planned for 31 August, at Plas Dolerw with Chris Wernham coming down from Scotland to inform us about the Scottish experience.

There was concern expressed about the future of the Welsh Kite Trust. There was discussion about the situation.

13.32 WOS e-media

JH informed the meeting that he had been very busy at work so had not been able to do much with e-media in recent months. He took us through the paper he had sent out to Council members prior to the meeting.

There was discussion about the idea of a calendar on the WOS website. This seemed to cover two issues: firstly, presenting a calendar of events across Wales, secondly, being a means by which WOS can do something positive for Affiliate Members. Consequently, there may need to be one or two people covering these two aspects of the calendar issue.

To put 'Relationships with Affiliate Members' on the agenda for the next Council meeting.	IMS
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13.33 Any other business

13.33.1 Garden BirdWatch conference

This will take place on 9 November at Bangor.

13.33.2 Email to IMS about wind turbines

There was some discussion about the issues raised by the email. It was agreed that WOS should not respond to issues about individual wind farm proposals as to respond to these is beyond the capacity of our volunteer officers. It was also agreed that WOS does not need to prepare a position paper about windfarms.

Ian M Spence
8 July 2013