



Welsh Ornithological Society

Minutes of the Council meeting at Plas Dolerw on Saturday, 7 March 2009

Present: Anne Brenchley, Julian Hughes, John Lloyd, Derek Moore, Ian Spence, Steph Tyler, Alan Williams

Apologies: Mick Green

09-01 **Minutes of the meeting of 22 November 2008**

The wording of 08-20 was revised to 'maintain the printing costs for Welsh Birds within the budget'.

The wording of 08-23 was revised to 'renewed the hosting service'.

Otherwise the minutes were accepted as accurate.

09-02 **Matters arising**

08-7 Bird Conservation Targetting Project

IMS apologised for not inviting Richard Winspear to the Recorders' Forum.

08-20 Treasurer's Report

To provide the list of members in Excel.	AW
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08-24.1 Trustee information

Those present were asked to check their details ready to be sent to the Charity Commissioners.

08-24.6 WOS President

DM reported that he had written to the current President and received a reply. David Saunders has sent his resignation and best wishes for the new President, whoever that may be. He raised a point that he had not received any minutes of Council meetings during his tenure.

DM has spoken with Iolo Williams who seems to be keen to become President of WOS.

To contact Iolo Williams and book him for the conference in November.	DM
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09-03 **2009 conference planning**

It was agreed to pursue the theme of 'Woodland birds in Wales'.

It would have been helpful to have the conference timing template available, but in its absence it was reported that Rod Leslie will talk about 'Birds and Forestry'.

To speak with Rob Fuller at the BTO to ask if he will speak about birds and habitat change with particular reference to birds in Wales.	IMS
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To contact Ken Smith to ask if he would be willing to represent the RSPB and talk about woodland bird species.	IMS
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To invite Tony Cross to talk about and show video of Nightjars.	IMS
To invite Jerry Lewis to talk about Hawfinches.	DM
To ask if Jon Green would be willing to do a short Welsh roundup.	IMS
To ask if Peter Lansdown would prepare another quiz.	DM
To invite the following companies to be present at the conference with sales, and preferably, to provide something for the raffle: Subbuteo, BTO, Birdguides, John Barnes, RSPB bird food.	IMS
To check that the RSPB (Tim Stowe) is still willing to deal with the bookings on our behalf, with revised instructions.	IMS
To ask for a short notice about the conference to appear in Y Barcud, in liaison with IMS.	JH
To seek to have the conference advertised on the websites of bird clubs in Wales.	IMS

It was agreed that the conference will be a WOS conference, mainly, in association with the BTO and the RSPB. We need to find someone willing to take photographs at the conference to then go on the WOS website. Also, about a month before the conference a press release is to be sent to papers in north Wales. Food budget to be £15 per person and ticket price at £20 per person.

09-04 **Treasurer's Report**

Bird clubs in Wales are to be sent a reminder to pay their affiliation subscription towards the end of 2009.

The Treasurer presented details of income and expenditure for the year ended December 2008 and budget figures for 2009 to 2011.

In 2008 the Society has made a useful surplus, mainly from affiliation subscriptions and the reduction in the cost of printing Welsh Birds. All agreed with the Income and Expenditure Account that is now to be audited.

After discussing the budget it was agreed that we would like the Society to ensure a surplus each year.

09-05 **Editor's Report**

Following our last meeting ST had contacted Jon Green with the points raised at the meeting. JG has replied:

- The change in numbering volumes of Welsh Birds will start from the next edition in 2009.
- He did not wish to change the font – to be reviewed.
- He did not wish the merging of Scarce birds and the main Welsh bird report.

There was discussion about a range of issues related to merging the two reports, including some technical aspects to do with colour printing, but the main issue was the potential for saving on printing costs. That would be paramount in making a final decision.

To make comparative costings for: - Two reports as currently. - One report with records and colour photos within the species accounts. - One report with colour photos on separate, bunched pages. To report back to the next Council meeting.	ST
Welsh translations of the abstracts of papers are to be arranged starting with the next edition, in July 2009.	JH, ST

There was further discussion about the copyright of drawings used in our publications and about boxes of unsold copies of Welsh Birds.

To make copies available to bird clubs in Wales to be used as promotional material to encourage new members for WOS.	ST
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DM reported about an email exchange with Jon Green about production of the Welsh Bird Report on time. DM requested help at the Recorders' Forum and two people there offered some help. There was further discussion about the WOS Newsletter and the likely need to resurrect it to serve as a means of communicating with bird clubs and their members.

09-06 **Welsh Records Panel report**

The report from Jon Green had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report was accepted.

There was discussion about the use of photographs in our publications without the explicit permission of the photographers. WOS does not wish to face any possible legal repercussions from such practice.

In no circumstances should any photograph be used in Welsh Birds or other publication without the explicit consent of the photographer. To report this to Jon Green.	ST
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The Council was pleased to hear that all members of the WRP have now become members of WOS.

09-07 **Recorders' Forum**

The attendance at the meeting was disappointing with only six Recorders present (and Jon Green was the only other who sent apologies). IMS apologised to the meeting for not inviting John Barnes (he does not have email). The meeting had been a very useful set of discussions around two issues that had been raised at the previous Forum. There was much discussion about the attendance, possible encouragements and concern about why there had not been apologies for absence.

The notes from the Forum are to be sent to all Recorders and the Chairs of all the bird clubs in Wales.	IMS
To contact Recorders who did not attend the Forum meeting to try to clarify the reasons for not going and to try to find out what Recorders would like at such a meeting so that they would attend in future: Chris Jones, Gwent Pete Jennings, Radnor John Barnes, Caernarfon Jim Dustow, Meirionydd Geri Thomas, Glamorgan (East) Rob Taylor, Glamorgan (West)	AW, ST IMS IMS JH DM DM
To report the findings of phone calls to these Recorders to IMS for collation and reporting to Council.	All

Without prejudicing the information to be gained from the phone conversations, it was thought that it may be more useful to extend the Forum to become one for Recorders and Report Editors.

09-08 **WOS website**

During some discussion about the website, JH asked what its key function was. There was no clear answer from anyone. However, it was clear that some of its current features are not being used – and maybe are unnecessary for an all-Wales society and may be better left to more local societies and bird clubs. It seemed to be agreed that it was a means of communicating with the wider public, but in a passive way. The public must choose to look at the website. AW mentioned a paper he had circulated to Council a couple of years ago. It may be used to make the minutes of Council meetings available for people to examine.

To send the paper about the website to all.	AW
To reconsider the functions of the WOS website at the next meeting.	All

09-09 **Any other business**

09-09.1 **Minutes of Council meetings**

There was some discussion about the circulation of Council minutes and who needed to see them.

In future, agreed minutes will be sent to the President and members of the WRP.	IMS
Minutes, edited if necessary, to be posted on the website after agreement.	AW

09-09.2 Invitations to meetings of other organisations

It appears that representation by WOS is being requested at a range of meetings. This is seen as a good start to our repositioning of WOS as representative of bird clubs and birdwatchers across Wales.

To attend a meeting in Birmingham to discuss bird monitoring in Wales on 26 March 2009.	IMS
To attend the Wales Environmental Information Forum at Aberystwyth on 11 March 2009, both representing the BTO and WOS.	JL

DM has been invited to another meeting about BAP species (the new 'Species Expert Group'). Several Council members expressed willingness to attend such meetings if there were sufficient notice to make arrangements. As part of the discussion it was agreed that there should be a message from WOS to all bird clubs in Wales to lodge their records with their local record centre, so that they are available for conservation purposes.

To respond to a consultation about the proposed Severn Barrage on behalf of WOS	AW
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09-09.3 Links with bird clubs

Every bird club in Wales now seems to have expressed support for WOS and many have paid an affiliation subscription. We must now ensure that we provide something for the clubs and we must consider how we will inform them of what we are doing, especially when we are representatives of bird interests across Wales.

To consider ways of using grants to support the work of WOS.	All
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09-09.4 Sales of WOS branded merchandise

To investigate the possibility of creating a brochure of WOS branded goods, the sales of which would lead to 25% of the cost price coming to WOS.	DM
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09-09.5 The Marsh Christian Trust

This Trust is a source of funds to support volunteers that has been researched by the BTO and said to be genuine. Awards are likely to be at least £750.

To keep Council informed of developments with this Trust.	JL
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09-09.6 Dates of next meetings

To circulate proposed dates for the next year. Council, 4 July 2009, Plas Dolerw (small room) Conference, 7 November 2009, Llanrwst Council, 21 November 2009, Plas Dolerw Recorders' (and Report Editors') Forum, 27 February 2010, Plas Dolerw Council, 6 March 2010, Plas Dolerw	IMS
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AB was thanked for providing coffee and biscuits.