



Welsh Ornithological Society

Minutes of the Council meeting at Plas Dolerw on Saturday, 13 March 2010

Present: Mick Green, Julian Hughes, Pete Jennings, John Lloyd, Derek Moore, Ian Spence, Steph Tyler, Alan Williams

Apologies: Anne Brenchley, Iolo Williams

10-01 Minutes of the meeting of 28 November 2009

Accepted

10-02 Matters arising

09-23 Conference debrief

Since a letter about sending a debt collector and a phone conversation between IMS and an officer in the Treasurer's Department there has been no further communication from Conwy following our payment for the last conference.

09-26 CCW Grant Aid

Nothing happened following the offer of some grant from Siân Whitehead. We need to determine who will take responsibility for pursuing such grants in the future.

To enquire with Powys Council of Voluntary Organisations for possible grants.	PJ
To investigate membership of the Welsh Council of Voluntary Organisations if we cannot get help via Powys.	All
To check with Andrew Dale for a useful contact within CCW who may help us with grant applications.	IMS

A possibility is to seek a grant to pay for someone to prepare grant applications on our behalf.

09-27 Planning for the conference in 2010

To reinvite Katie-Jo Luxton to our next meeting and give an idea of the issues we wish to discuss with her. Alternatively, offer for WOS officers to meet with her in Cardiff.	IMS
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09-29 Recorders' Forum

Because of apparent lack of interest, the Forum scheduled for 27 February was cancelled. IMS had emailed Recorders for ask what would encourage them to attend future meetings and replies included: to invite the Chair of the Welsh Records Panel to meet with Recorders; to hold the meeting in July; and to combine the meeting with some birdwatching. We need to seek more views and think of arranging another Forum, perhaps in 2011.

To email the Recorders and Report Editors to seek further views.	IMS
To inform IMS of the current names of Recorders and Report Editors across Wales.	All

10-03 Treasurer's report

There was discussion about Affiliate members and seeking renewal of their subscriptions.

To send an invoice to all the Clubs in Wales that have paid before or considered doing so.	AW
To prepare a letter to all the Clubs informing them of the services we make available for them, including the Recorders' Forum, the publications (now to be called) 'Birds in Wales', the conference and the revamped website.	DM
To draft the letter and send to Council members for comments before sending out to the	DM

clubs.	
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There remains the ongoing challenge of engaging with Wildlife Trust groups who are not able to pay a subscription.

There was brief discussion about Corporate members.

To invoice Ecology Matters so that they become our first Corporate member.	AW
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Draft accounts were presented to the meeting and discussed.

To include a Standing Order form on the membership application.	AW
To ensure that Standing Order forms are always available as the back page of reports.	ST

10-04 Editor's report

The next edition of *Birds in Wales* is being prepared. ST is still waiting for some contributions.

There was discussion about what we wish to see in the Welsh Bird Report and how to prepare it. Some aspirations that were aired were for the report to show distribution maps of selected species and for all Recorders across Wales to have a, preferably the same, database to enable the output of the minimum data needed to generate distribution maps. We may need to explore if bird clubs would want this and if there were any possibility of CCW funding to help achieve this end. The Chair sought volunteers to help prepare the next bird report and several people present agreed to assist with editing and typesetting tasks.

Agreed that we will explore ways of improving bird reporting in Wales by assisting with organising a means of having compatible data storage.	All
To approach Rhion Pritchard to ask if he would be willing to act as Editor of the bird report (with help from others to write the different sections) and other help to typeset the report.	ST
To approach Council members (and others) to seek their agreement to volunteer as report compilers to help the Editor with different species groups.	ST
To combine the rare birds with the overall bird report.	ST
To email the deadlines for production of the Welsh Bird Report to all Council members.	ST
To suggest that the Welsh Bird Report takes particular interest in a selected, say six, species each year (probably from the BAP priority list) for study and to be mapped.	ST

10-05 Conference 2010

MG and IMS recently visited Carno Community Centre and Theatr Hafren to check their suitability as conference venues. The former is suitable.

To book the Carno Community Centre as the venue for this year's conference.	IMS
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The programme is coming together but there are some speakers that need to be confirmed.

To ask IW to attend and do the scene setting at the start of the conference (15 min).	IMS
To invite someone from the Environment Agency to speak about Wetland habitat issues and flooding (40 min).	MG
To invite someone from CCW to talk about the Newport wetlands (30 min).	AW
To invite a RSPB speaker to talk about declines of breeding waders in Wales (30 min).	JH

There was discussion about the conference planning list and various problems that arose at the last conference.

To prepare a lunch ticket system for this year's conference. Lunches will only be available for those who pay in advance of the conference.	IMS
To inform Dana Thomas at RSPB, and Graham Appleton and Su Gough at BTO of the conference date, venue and theme.	IMS

10-06 BTO Cymru update

The BTO is to launch an appeal to help with funds for a Welsh office.

There is a possibility of a meeting in Wales for the BTO to meet with representative of various interested groups from across Wales.

10-07 Proposed terms of reference for a new subgroup of WOS

The proposal was introduced by the Chair and put by IMS. There was then discussion about implications and issues arising from the proposal. From the discussions there was agreement that the proposers should be asked if they would accept a change to the title of the new group and be told that a change of the paragraph on 'Group funds' would need to be changed to meet with Charity Commission obligations.

To seek a change of the title of the proposed group to 'The Welsh Rare Breeding Birds and Raptor Study Group'.	IMS
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If these amendments are accepted by the proposers all present accepted that the new subgroup should be formed, with a review of its functioning at the end of 2011.

We will need to ensure that the members of the committee structure of the new subgroup are members of the Welsh Ornithological Society and to encourage all fieldworkers to also become members (if they are not members already).

10-08 WOS website

JH informed us of the progress he has made and sought agreement about a few issues.

To send out a press release about the launch of the revised website, ready for 21 March 2010.	JH
To include some pages for bird clubs that do not have their own website.	JH
To put draft AGM minutes and approved AGM minutes on the website.	JH
To put approved Council minutes on the website.	JH
Other Council members to send to JH the information or photos that he is waiting for.	All

10-09 Any other business

10-09.1 Taxonomic order for Welsh Bird Report

After some discussion it was agreed that we will use the December 2009 BOU list as the order for species in the next Welsh Bird Report. The revised list can be found at:

<http://www.bou.org.uk/recbrlst1.html>

To inform affiliate clubs we are doing this.	DM
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10-09.2 Potential Council members

There was discussion about some possible new Council members. Two people will be invited to consider co-option.

10-09.3 Welsh Records Panel

There was discussion about what is expected of the Chairs of WOS subgroups and of whether they should be invited to Council meetings and receive Council minutes.

Chairs of subgroups to be added to the Council email list – hence invited to Council meetings and receive Council minutes.	IMS
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10-10 Dates of next meetings

Please clearly mark your diaries with these dates for Council meetings:

10 July 2010
20 November 2010
12 March 2011
9 July 2011
19 November 2011

Ian M Spence

14 March 2010