



Welsh Ornithological Society

Minutes of the Council meeting at Plas Dolerw on Saturday, 12 March 2011

Present: Anne Brenchley, Mick Green, Julian Hughes, John Jones, Derek Moore, Rhion Pritchard, Ian Spence, Reg Thorpe, Steph Tyler, Alan Williams.

Apologies: Richard Facey, Pete Jennings, John Lloyd, Iolo Williams.

DM welcomed JJ to the meeting as a newly co-opted member of Council and we introduced ourselves.

11.01 Minutes of the meeting of 20 November 2010

Accepted.

11.02 Matters arising

10.27.1 New members of Council

DM had invited Liz Snell but she is currently too busy to join Council and he has had a conversation with Bob Haycock who may be willing and able after his retirement at the end of March.

DM asked why there was the suggestion of a CCW representative on Council and there was a short discussion.

To write to David Parker to request a representative from CCW who is interested in birds to become an observer at Council meetings.	DM
To contact Bob Haycock and invite him to join Council.	DM

10.27.2 Corporate membership

To contact JH to check the design of the Corporate Membership form and to make it available on the website.	MG
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10.33 Conference 2011

To contact Birdwatchers' Yearbook to act as the WOS contact and ensure correct entries for our conference etc.	IMS
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10.36 Records to LRCs to provide distribution maps for the Welsh Bird Report

To draft a request for Affiliate Members to use an electronic database for records, all of which should be accurate to the 1 km level, and to submit records to their LRC. To clarify the value of such records as they could be used to direct use of Glastir for actual conservation action.	IMS
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This is to be sent to Recorders as well as our usual contacts.

11.03 Chairman's report

Nothing particular to report but he has met with several Affilitate Member groups and given talks to them – Montgomery, Pembrokeshire and Gower. A meeting with Cambrian OS that was called off because of snow and ice is to be rearranged.

11.04 Treasurer's report

2010 was more successful than for several years: there was an increase in the number of members, the publication costs were reduced, the conference went well and provided a surplus and the Society benefitted from two donations from the President.

To date, 210 members have renewed their subscriptions but more are expected.

There was some discussion about the print run for Birds in Wales and whether, or not, it should be reduced. No change was thought necessary at present.

To return back copies for safe-keeping and sending to new members to AW.	All
To send invoices to Affiliate Members for their 2011 renewal.	AW

11.05 Editor's report

The publication of an issue of Birds in Wales under the old title had been dealt with by email, so there was no discussion of that issue.

Jon Green and RT are happy that the next Rare and Scarce Birds will appear only as a download from the website.

IMS offered to prepare covers for all future copies for Birds in Wales with editorially determined colours and pictures, and with a reference on the spine.

To send to IMS what is required for each issue.	ST
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There was discussion about the distribution of Birds in Wales for sale at different outlets.

For invoices to be prepared by a sole WOS contact – at least for RSPB sales outlets. IMS currently does this in North Wales.	IMS
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There was discussion about the preparation of the Welsh Bird Report and the feasibility of preparing some guidelines for authors.

To prepare some guidelines for species account editors.	RP
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11.06 Welsh Records Panel

There was brief discussion of the change to the Rare and Scarce Birds report appearing on the website. This should allow the report to develop new possibilities.

RT reported that the membership of the Panel is likely to be unchanged for this year.

The Panel has had discussions about issues arising from the identification of Chiffchaffs and Redpolls. Decisions have been made about criteria and decisions about submitted records should follow soon.

11.07 Welsh Rare Breeding Bird and Raptor Study Group

The Group is now up and running but there has been slow progress towards a first report.

11.08 Conference 2011

The programme was discussed and following were the suggestions for Council members to contact and invite:

Iolo Williams: Conservationists in Wales	IMS
Simon Holloway: Historical perspective of bird conservation in Wales	MG
Speaker to be identified from RSPB: RSPB and its part in 100 years of bird conservation in Wales	RT
Dave Leech, BTO: Science in Welsh Ornithology	IMS
Steve Sutcliffe: Islands over 100 years	DM

Tony Cross: The Story of the Red Kite	IMS
Derek Moore: Birdwatching during the last 100 years	DM
Dee Doody: Film	IMS
Julian Hughes: Birds in Wales today	JH/RT

The timings are to be juggled to accept this order, with lunch to remain at the same time as last year – for 70 minutes.

IMS reported on his visit to the Newbridge-on-Wye Community Centre and it was thought that there was insufficient space for sales tables and people to browse.

To check if Carno is available and book it and also to check about blacking out of the triangular windows.	IMS
To contact Keith Noble about a venue near Brecon.	JH

Carno was not available on 5 November so the conference will now take place at **Carno on 12 November 2011**. Please amend your diaries

11.09 **Conference 2012**

This will take place on 3 November 2012 as long as there are no clashes with important rugby matches. The Welsh Rugby Union lists no other matches than the Six Nations for 2012.

11.10 **BTO Cymru update**

AB reported that an all Wales Newsletter is due to go out to BTO members soon. The BTO is still committed to open an office in Wales, but now likely from autumn 2011.

RT reported that the BTO will be lead partners for research into Skylark and Song Thrush.

11.11 **Small grant application form**

AB had joined the subgroup and the WOS guidance and application form were completed and made public.

ST reported that there have been five applications for grants but not all are appropriate. It is anticipated that at least one will be accepted. Unsuccessful applicants will be given an explanation.

11.12 **Amendment to the Constitution**

The revised constitution that was accepted at the AGM in 2008 did not have provision for a President. The amendment to be taken to the AGM this year sets out a section relating to a President who will be elected for five years and will be eligible for re-election.

To revise the constitution as presented, with the renumbering required and to arrange for it to be sent to all members prior to the AGM.	IMS
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11.13 **WOS as conduit for CCW grants to affiliate bird clubs that are not, themselves, charities**

IMS explained how the issue had arisen in North Wales, but it could apply with any similar affiliate member, and there was discussion about the issues that would arise, especially the need for the WOS to be a diligent employer of people who may be employed under such a grant.

It was agreed, in principle, that the Council wishes the WOS to be able to assist affiliate members to obtain CCW grants for appropriate work for the benefit of bird conservation.

To send paperwork relating to employment to IMS and DM.	MG
To check with Siân Whitehead if RSPB could act as employer on behalf of WOS in the	RT

instance of the immediate need in North Wales.	
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11.14 WOS website

JH presented a report about the website and some issues to be agreed or resolved.

To develop a Paypal method of accepting payments.	JH/AW
To provide JH with an Excel index of contents of Welsh Birds and Birds in Wales to date.	RT
To provide a photo of himself to be put on the website.	PJ
To contact Kelvin Jones about the contents of the WRBBSG.	JH
To provide a photo and brief biography for the website.	JJ

11.15 Any other business

11.15.1 Redshank survey 2011

Natural England is doing a survey for Redshank on saltmarsh (particularly during April and May 2011). RT would like a similar survey to be done of Welsh saltmarshes where there may be Redshank. The last such survey was done in 1991.

To send a list of sites to all Council members to forward to any interested person.	RT
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11.15.2 Bird Conservation Forum

RT reported on a meeting of the Forum on 11 March but IMS, as WOS representative, was not able to attend. ST asked who is able to attend, and she may do so at future meetings. The terms of reference for the Forum were agreed. A matrix of bird priorities was agreed. There was discussion about grouping species into habitats for biodiversity purposes. This is likely to lead to a matrix of habitats and species. Lead partners for Section 42 species were agreed (a lead partner ensures that something is done for a species, but does not necessarily do all the work itself). A lead partner needs to identify four or five actions and ensures that they are actioned.

To consider if WOS could take lead partner role for a species.	All
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The next meeting of the Forum focuses on Woodland birds and will take place on 12 July 2011.

11.15.3 Council meeting dates for 2012

IMS proposes the following:
 10 March 2012
 7 July 2012
 24 November 2012

Plas Dolerw is provisionally booked for these dates.

To agree the dates at the next meeting.	All
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Ian M Spence
 14 March 2011