

### Minutes of the Council Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Plas Dolerw

Present: Mick Green, Julian Hughes, Kelvin Jones, Neil Lambert, Alison Noble, Keith Noble, Giles Pepler, Rhion Pritchard, Dan Rouse, Ian Spence, Alan Williams

Apologies for absence: Heather Crump, Richard Facey, Bob Haycock, Carlton Parry, Steve Stansfield, Steve Sutcliffe, Iolo Williams

<b>18.1</b>		<b>Welcomes</b>  Neil Lambert (RSPB) and Alison Noble were welcomed to the meeting.	
<b>18.2</b>		<b>Minutes of the meeting of 11 November 2017</b>  Accepted.	
<b>18.3</b>		<b>Matters arising</b>	
	<b>16.10</b>	<b>Consultation about banning of shooting of Greenland White-fronted Geese</b>  The African-European Waterbird Agreement has written to the Welsh Government about the lack of a ban on shooting of this species. The matter has been referred to NRW for a reply.	
	<b>16.44</b>	<b>Conservation Strategy paper</b>  This has now been published.	
		<b>To prepare a table of past and present studies of birds to be placed on the website.</b>	<b>AB</b>
<b>18.4</b>		<b>Chair's report</b>  MG reported that he was working on various issues.	
<b>18.5</b>		<b>Treasurer's report</b>  In the absence of the Treasurer MG has paid for the stand at the BirdFair and will reclaim the money when SSu returns.	
<b>18.6</b>		<b>Membership Secretary's report</b>  A report had been emailed to all prior to the meeting. AW reported that all the figures about membership had increased since it was written and a few more people have paid.  IMS proposed and MG seconded that AN should take over the role of Membership Secretary with access to the membership database. All agreed.	

	<p>GP proposed and MG seconded that DR be cooped until the AGM. All agreed.</p> <p>Issues about Gift Aid were brought to our attention. AW will continue to chase up Gift Aid agreements during the rest of this year. This will ensure Gift Aid declarations and member addresses are, actually, the same.</p> <p>AW reported that he has many copies of past editions of Welsh Birds/ Birds in Wales and needs to reduce the numbers.</p>	
	<b>To take some relatively recent copies to the Bird Fair and conference.</b>	<b>AW</b>
	<b>To inform people of a problem with access to the members' pages of the website during January, when memberships are being confirmed.</b>	<b>GP</b>
	<p>MG thanked AW for all his work over the years.</p> <p>We have not been meeting our targets for new members. The membership form needs to be completed and made available. Social media have been very quiet which means that WOS has not been brought to people's attention regularly.</p>	
	<b>To discuss social media with HC.</b>	<b>MG</b>
	<b>To put membership and social media on the agenda for the July meeting.</b>	<b>IMS</b>
<b>18.7</b>	<p><b>Editor's report</b></p> <p>A report had been emailed to all prior to the meeting and RP went over its contents with congratulations to the Editor of the Welsh Bird Report (JH) and others for its production.</p> <p>RP reported on progress with papers for the next edition of Birds in Wales.</p> <p>JH reported that he had discussed the issue of the presentation of the Rare and Scarce Birds Report and the desire for its appearance to match that of other WOS publications with SSt. The issue is to be discussed with Jon Green.</p> <p>JH reported that he wishes to develop the contents of the WBR with extra information from BBS and WeBS to provide a better indication of the health of bird populations.</p>	
<b>18.8</b>	<p><b>Conference 2018</b></p> <p>KN reported that Reichel Hall in Bangor has been booked. The main hall will be set out cabaret style with round tables as delegates will have to eat their lunches at these tables. This limits numbers to 120 people at a cost of £22.50 each.</p> <p>There was discussion about the programme of speakers with some suggestions made.</p>	
	<b>To arrange for some birding on the Sunday morning, after the conference.</b>	<b>RP</b>

		<b>To complete the programme by the July meeting and propose a ticket price.</b>	<b>KN</b>
		<b>To investigate Eventbrite for ticket sales.</b>	<b>GP</b>
<b>18.9</b>		<b>Conference 2019</b>  There was discussion about a main speaker for this, Derek Moore Memorial talk at the 30 th anniversary conference on 9 November 2109.	
		<b>To approach Stephen Moss to be the speaker.</b>	<b>KN</b>
<b>18.10</b>		<b>BirdFair 2018</b>  A basic stand has been booked.	
		<b>To check with Lizzie Wilberforce if the West Wales Trust will be attending with the possibility of our stands adjoining.</b>	<b>MG</b>
		KN explained that he will not be able to assist this year but that he has much of the material needed for the stand in store at his house. Those who are going to attend will be: DN (possibly Saturday only to help with WOS), IMS, AB (all three days), GP (Friday). It is not yet known if BH and SSu will be able to assist.	
		<b>To coordinate what is needed for the BirdFair stand.</b>	<b>IMS</b>
		<b>To contact KN about what material he has and what more is needed.</b>	<b>IMS</b>
		<b>To organise collection of materials from KN.</b>	<b>IMS</b>
		<b>To redo and print 200 of the information sheet about good birdwatching sites in Wales, with membership information added.</b>	<b>JH</b>
		<b>To examine the possibility of obtaining poly/cotton tabards with WOS information printed on them.</b>	<b>IMS</b>
		<b>To order 15 tabards.</b>	<b>IMS</b>
		<b>To organise printing of membership leaflets (1000).</b>	<b>SSu</b>
		<b>To enquire about bird seed donation (50kg needed to provide bags with 500g each for prizes).</b>	<b>DR</b>
		<b>To arrange for WOS stickers to be put on each of the bird seed prizes.</b>	<b>DR</b>
<b>18.11</b>		<b>Progress with digitising WOS publications</b>  The journals donated for sacrifice are still with JH. There have been difficulties with contacting and liaising with the Biodiversity Heritage Library.	
		<b>To continue trying to communicate with the BHL to achieve the digitisation.</b>	<b>JH</b>

<b>18.12</b>		<b>Support for Curlew conservation</b>  The Curlew conference, supported by a small grant from WOS, was successful but follow up has not yet happened. MG has tried to coordinate but is waiting for action from NRW to form a steering group.	
		<b>To circulate the conference report.</b>	<b>MG</b>
		Mark Isherwood, AM, is the Curlew Species Champion who attended the conference and is supportive of moves to help curlews.	
		<b>To write to the Chief Executive, NRW, to seek support from NRW to conserve curlew.</b>	<b>MG</b>
		<b>To ask people to send in records of curlew to the Cofnod dedicated database.</b>	<b>JH</b>
		<b>To contact Karen Balmer, Council Member of NRW, to seek her support for this issue.</b>	<b>IMS</b>
		<b>To contact another NRW Council Member to seek support.</b>	<b>DR</b>
<b>18.13</b>		<b>Support for the Osprey forum</b>  WOS received a request for funding for the forum which coordinates action and results. We agreed that financial support for this species is not appropriate as it is not of great conservation concern.	
<b>18.14</b>		<b>Conservation small grants</b>  This year three applications were approved for support at £500 each. They are:  1. North Wales Wildlife Trust (Ben Stammers) for their Swift conservation work. This involves putting up boxes on suitable buildings, monitoring and recording, community engagement and raising awareness of these iconic birds. 2. Mid Wales Ringing Group (Tony Cross) for a project to ring and monitor breeding Hawfinches around Powis Castle, Powys. 3. Glamorgan Bird Club (Strinda Davies) for their innovative project to identify the locations of breeding and wintering Willow Tits and raising the profile of these rather secretive birds.	
<b>18.15</b>		<b>e-Media</b>  <b>Website</b> GP reported that there were 586 hits in December and running at 540-600 hits per month.  <b>e-Newsletter</b> DR reported that 208 members received the e-Newsletter and 117 opened the email.	
		<b>To email to GP any statistics of take up, web hits, etc prior to each meeting for a report.</b>	<b>DR, HC</b>

		<b>Social media</b> HC has been busy with work commitments and has said that she has not been as active as she would like to be with the facebook page. MG reported that there are 2669 followers on Twitter and 146 likes for the facebook page.	
		<b>To talk with HC about the facebook page and to remove IMS as an administrator.</b>	<b>MG</b>
<b>18.16</b>		<p><b>BTO Cymru</b></p> <p>There was a successful conference for ringers and nest recorders at the Elan Valley Hotel in February. There was also a meeting of the BTO Regional Representatives at the same location the next day.</p> <p>The Ringing Course for 2018 will be at Oxwich.</p> <p>Project Owl starts in September. This will include citizen science about listening for Tawny Owl in gardens. Ringers will be asked to do more than just ring pulli.</p> <p>The next BTO Council meeting will take place in Bangor in July.</p>	
<b>18.17</b>		<p><b>RSPB Cymru</b></p> <p>Notes by NL are attached with these minutes. Current bids in the pipeline or successful are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Living Landscape partnership</li> <li>Celtic Rainforest LIFE project</li> <li>Lake Vyrnwy LIFE project</li> <li>Proposed Saving Nature HLF bid</li> </ul> <p>There were updates about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greenland White-fronted Geese</li> <li>Curlew</li> <li>Hen Harrier (Skydancer LIFE project)</li> <li>Hawfinch</li> </ul>	
<b>18.18</b>		<p><b>Fish-eating birds</b></p> <p>Pat Lindley has written a position paper about these birds, as a result of WOS pressure. We await further developments.</p>	
		<b>To write an article about the developments with NRW and the results of WOS lobbying for publication in the e-Newsletter.</b>	<b>MG</b>
<b>18.19</b>		<p><b>New WOS sales items</b></p> <p>There was discussion about possibilities. DR reported that a rectangular car sticker would cost 95p each if 500 were printed.</p>	
		<b>To get another quote from the printer of the BTO car sticker.</b>	<b>DR, KJ</b>

		We agreed, in principle, that we should get car stickers prepared in time for the BirdFair.	
		<b>To investigate the cost of a WOS pin badge (500).</b>	<b>DR</b>
		<b>To investigate the cost of a WOS pin badge (500) from the supplier of RSPB pin badges.</b>	<b>NL</b>
		There was discussion about T-shirts for members but there was no consensus there was demand. It was agreed not to proceed with these currently.	
<b>18.20</b>		<p><b>WRP report</b></p> <p>SSt had emailed IMS before the meeting.</p> <p>The panel has almost completed circulations for 2017. County Recorders have regularly received spreadsheets of decisions and were due to receive a draft report soon.</p> <p>There seems to be a growing tendency of observers not to submit records but to leave them on various websites. Very few records come to WRP via the County Recorders.</p> <p>It is increasingly difficult to get people to sit on the panel. If WOS Council members can think of suitable candidates, please notify the WRP.</p> <p>The WRP failed to have a face to face AGM over the winter months. It is anticipated that a Skype AQGM will occur 'in due course'.</p>	
<b>18.21</b>		<b>Any other business</b>	
	<b>18.21.1</b>	<p><b>Donation</b></p> <p>Recently John Lawton Roberts asked KJ to sell some of his mist-nets. The £120 raised was to be donated to WOS for use in supporting young people and their studies of birds.</p>	
	<b>18.21.2</b>	<p><b>Data Protection</b></p> <p>There was discussion about aspects of the new <b>General Data Protection Regulation</b>. One implication for WOS is that we need to have a Data Protection Officer. We will need to consider issues arising from the Direct Debit system if it leads to at least one Council member knowing about members' bank account details.</p> <p>JH agreed to act as the Data Protection Officer for the immediate future.</p>	
	<b>18.21.3</b>	<p><b>Pete Jennings as County Recorder for Radnor</b></p> <p>There have been complaints about the way PJ acts as Recorder. This is not directly a WOS issue and it seems there is no person in Radnor willing to take up the role of County Recorder to replace him.</p>	
	<b>18.21.4</b>	<b>The Leica Welsh Red Kites</b>	









The Welsh Ornithological Society is registered as a charity in Wales and England, no. 1037823

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Chair: Mick Green

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