



Minutes of the Council meeting at Plas Dolerw on Saturday, 17 November 2018

Present: Heather Crump, Richard Facey, Mick Green, Julian Hughes, Kelvin Jones, Alison Noble, Keith Noble, Carlton Parry, Giles Pepler, Rhion Pritchard, Dan Rouse, Ian Spence, Steve Sutcliffe.

Apologies for absence: Bob Haycock, Neil Lambert, Steve Stansfield, Iolo Williams.

		BH is currently in hospital.	
		To send best wishes on behalf of Council to Bob and Annie.	IMS
18.41		Minutes of the meeting on 14 July 2018. In 18.27 change reference to Tickell to Tyrrell. Accepted.	
18.42		Matters arising	
	16.44	Conservation strategy paper Changes to the website to reflect this are in hand.	
		To prepare a table to past and present studies of birds to be placed on the website.	AB
	18.24	Chair's report There has been another Curlew Cymru meeting. Other issues are covered by other items on the agenda for today.	
	18.26	Membership Secretary's report	
		To ask Affiliate Member contacts if they would be willing to distribute our membership leaflets to their own members.	AN
	18.27	Editor's report	
		To send pdf of MG's paper in the last <i>Birds in Wales</i> to GP to go on the website.	IMS
	18.32	Progress with digitisation of WOS publications BHL did not need earlier editions of <i>Welsh Birds</i> as they had been lodged with the British Library. JH has emailed pdf versions of recent editions.	

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		To inform the person typesetting publications of an email address for BHL to send pdfs of future editions.	JH
18.43		Chair's report Detail will arise under items further down the agenda for today.	
18.44		Treasurer's report The meeting was provided with a sheet showing the finances to date. The situation is much as last year with the addition of two large donations, totalling £8,000. For Conservation Project grants there have been no claims made for the second half of any of the grants. There was discussion about who dealt with these grants and applications as the two main people are no longer on Council.	
		To ask AB if she is still coordinating project grants and if she has received any reports.	IMS
		To ask if AB is still willing to coordinate the conservation grants.	IMS
		There are a few extra costs related to the conference that are still due to be sorted but the surplus should end up at around £380. The increase in the rate of subscriptions has been useful. There was discussion about whether travel expenses should be paid to the Derek Moore Student Award winner, if the person has travelled to the conference at their own expense. There was further discussion about whether all invited speakers should be given a free place at conference.	
		To pay travel expenses to DMSA winners if they incur travel costs to attend the conference at which they receive the award.	SSu
		To provide all speakers with free places at conferences.	All
		There was some discussion about what to do with the £8,000 and a suggestion of providing £1,000 to the BTO as part of the BirdTrack partnership was deferred to the end of the meeting.	
18.45		Membership Secretary's report Current membership numbers were reported: Ordinary 284 Life 10 Affiliate 10 Renewals due 6	

	<p>There were 8 new members after the conference and some issues with Life members were dealt with. AN is checking who has signed up to provide Gift Aid. Glynne Kirkham is trying to find out how to get Gift Aid into Memberpress.</p> <p>Currently, there are no Corporate members. AN was thanked for her work with membership.</p>	
	To sign Gift Aid forms and return them to AN.	All
18.46	<p>Editor's report</p> <p>The last <i>Birds in Wales</i> seems to have been well received.</p> <p>David Saunders' paper on the Orierton duck decoy will be ready for next year. Other papers are welcome.</p> <p>RF reported that <i>Birds in Wales</i> is 'invisible' as a journal on search engines. He suggested that abstracts are made available on the website, in html, not as pdf files. This would help search engines to find the abstracts. It would be helpful to know how Google Scholar finds papers in the BHL.</p>	
	For future editions of <i>Birds in Wales</i>, to prepare a list of contents and abstracts, in Word and send to the webmaster.	IMS
	To put out a press release about the contents of each issue of <i>Birds in Wales</i>.	MG
	To circulate draft of press releases to Council members.	MG
	To request any papers / reports on projects by members of Affiliates.	GP
	To request possible papers from Affiliate county bird reports.	GP
	<p>JH reported that the Welsh Bird Report for 2017 is underway. It is likely to be published after Christmas. All County recorders are thanked for their contributions.</p> <p>JH suggested that we should consider moving the publication date of the papers edition to the spring. There was discussion about this and related issues.</p>	
	To try to bring forward publication of the papers edition to the end of April. This may have to be done in stages.	RP
	<p>RP spoke about the idea of updating the book '<i>Birds in Wales</i>' though not necessarily with that title. There was discussion and agreement in principle to start preparing the ground.</p>	
	To send emails to potential contributors to seek volunteers.	RP
	To put out an appeal for contributors in the e-newsletter and to ask what each person could contribute.	RP
	When names of likely contributors are known, to pull together an editorial group.	RP

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18.47		<p>Council succession planning</p> <p>JH, RF and BH all come the end of their second terms in November 2019. Council needs to consider the jobs done by these people to find suitable replacements.</p> <p>JH has spoken with Jez Smith who expressed interest in joining Council. JH talked about the roles Council needs. He also talked with Anne Brenchley about returning to Council. It is anticipated that RF's role with the Derek Moore Student Award and the Student Bursaries could go to Jez. JH's role with the Lifetime Achievement Award needs to do to someone.</p>	
		To email AB to ask if she is willing to be co-opted now and to Jez Smith to ask if he will stand for election in November 2019.	JH
18.48		<p>GDPR</p> <p>Apologies were given to JH for giving him a role he did not want at the last meeting. Currently, it seems that an organisation like ours does not need to have a GDPR officer. However, a privacy notice is needed and is in hand.</p>	
		To put a privacy statement on the website.	GP
18.49		<p>Conference 2018 debrief</p> <p>MG was pleased with the conference and the speakers. GP explained about Eventbrite services and costs and explained that this year we did not use the full range of services. The service will be slightly cheaper next year.</p> <p>Feedback from delegates was largely positive though there were concerns about the food. There was discussion about several issues and whether students should have to apply for a free place or just be eligible for a concessionary rate, possibly half price.</p>	
18.50		<p>Conference 2019</p> <p>KN reported that a hall at Aberystwyth University had been chosen with tiered seats for 200 people and a canteen available only about 50 m away. Each delegate would receive a voucher for £8.50 and could choose what food they wanted and only pay for anything over £8.50. With the costs of the hall and extra rooms, but expecting 200 people, the prices could remain as this year. There was discussion about an alternative venue that may work better.</p>	
		To check the Arts Centre as a possible venue.	KN
		There was further discussion about future conferences and it was suggested that, perhaps, all conferences could take place at Aberystwyth. This was countered by the reason that the conference moves around Wales, attracting different people from each area.	

		IW has agreed to be the main speaker in 2019 with 30 years of birding and conservation as the theme. There was discussion of inviting an expert panel to reflect on the conservation issues for the next 30 years. Each contributor would be invited to provide a pitch from their perspective and to answer preselected questions. Delegates would be asked to submit questions in advance.	
		To invite Katie-Jo Luxton, RSPB.	JH
		To invite the current Minister for the Environment.	MG
		To invite Andy Clements, BTO	IMS
		To invite Clare Pillman, NRW.	MG
		It was agreed that we need reflection on the last 30 years but also inspiration and positive views about the future. There was a suggestion about technology and its use for conservation as a possible talk.	
		To consider all options and to prepare a draft plan for the conference programme and other conference details.	KN
		To invite Affiliates to bring a display to the conference.	AN
		The idea of an anniversary publication (suggested in feedback from the 2018 conference) was considered but was rejected because of the work with the revised ' <i>Birds in Wales</i> '. There was discussion of other, less demanding means of celebrating the 30 th anniversary of WOS and it was agreed that we should prepare a calendar.	
18.51		Marketing / membership promotion Attendance at the BirdFair was intended to try to promote both these issues. IMS read key items from feedback from the 2018 BirdFair. Discussion then included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to ensure that no more than 3 people are on the stand at any one time. - The purpose is to make Wales and WOS noticeable to the birdwatching public. - Ideas about reorganising the stand to create more 'lingering' space was discussed. - Ideas for sponsorship should be pursued. 	
		To have BirdFair 2019 on the next agenda.	IMS
		It was agreed that we do not need to promote Corporate membership currently. There was then discussion about social media.	
		To do social media and take over Facebook from HC.	DR

		Currently, WOS does not have a person with responsibility for membership promotion. DR volunteered to take on this role. She talked about various ways of encouraging membership engagement. It was suggested that we all investigate 'Join up for nature', a website by the WVCA. This led to discussion about seeking engagement with surveys.	
		To ask AB for the table of species' surveys for the website.	GP
		Council thanked DR for taking on the membership promotion role.	
		To discuss further ideas for membership promotion.	MG, DR
18.52		<p>e-Media</p> <p>The website is currently up to date though a new front page, which will reflect the membership leaflet, is being prepared. There will also be a new tab for 'Surveys'. The website receives about 500 hits/month but there were up to 950 hits in October, probably related to conference bookings.</p> <p>The latest e-newsletter has gone out and 82% of about 200 recipients opened it.</p> <p>There are about 4,000 interactions on Twitter with the WOS account. On the day of the conference there were 40 new followers. RF has sent out many tweets.</p> <p>Facebook is no longer used by young people but by their parents and grandparents. HC apologised for the lack of Facebook messages and is pleased that DR has now agreed to take over running the WOS Facebook page.</p>	
		To feed any issues of interest to members to DR.	All
18.53		<p>BTO Cymru</p> <p>It is working with BASC to encourage young people to look for Curlews.</p>	
18.54		<p>RSPB Cymru</p> <p>There is reprioritising work across the UK and there will be restructuring. JH circulated to all Council members present a copy of the 'State of Birds in Wales 2018'.</p>	
18.55		Issues of current concern	
	18.55.1	<p>Fish-eating birds</p> <p>No action yet but the Welsh Government is developing legislation about slurry pollution in rivers and the detrimental effects on fish stocks as voluntary action has not worked.</p>	
	18.55.2	Curlews	

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		<p>There has been a meeting of Curlew Cymru last week with Hannah Blythyn and Mark Isherwood, who is now the species champion. Curlew Cymru is now seeking funding from a source in Wales.</p> <p>LATEST NEWS (26/11/2018) The Minister will provide 'emergency funding' for work on helping Curlew.</p>	
	18.55.3 Ravens	<p>MG submitted a FOI request for data. The information provided by applicants for licences to cull Ravens has been of very poor quality (i.e. people are not asked for good quality data) and has been very unscientific. To consider further moves.</p>	
18.56	Willow Tit survey	<p>WOS has agreed to support this survey.</p>	
18.57	Subgroup report (WRP)	<p>Council thanks Jon Green for producing the Scarce and Rare Birds report.</p>	
		To email JG to thank him.	MG
		<p>There was discussion about the desire to rename the WRP and create a new logo. It was agreed that the WRP should rename itself and become the 'Welsh Birds Rarities Committee (WBRC)'. The WBRC is seeking new members.</p>	
18.58	Any other business		
	18.58.1 Little Terns	<p>There has been a request that WOS deal with an application for a conservation grant outside its normal window to enable buying of tags for Little Terns.</p>	
		To inform the group to get an application to JH in the first instance, as soon as possible.	JH
	18.58.2 Greenland White-fronted Geese	<p>A few birds are now back in Wales. There has been a question, about protecting them, in the Senedd but no answer yet.</p> <p>LATEST NEWS (26/11/2018) The Minister has now banned the shooting of Greenland White-fronted Geese in Wales!</p>	
		To write to the Minister to thank her for a ban on wildfowling on the Dyfi.	MG
		To write to the Minister to thank her for addressing the AWA objection to the banning of Greenland White-fronted Geese in Wales and to thank her for banning the shooting of this species in Wales	MG
	18.58.3 Funding of surveys, etc in Wales		

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		To consider which surveys to fund. To consider a donation to BirdTrack with any other items brought forward.	
	18.58.4	Tote bags for conference items There was a suggestion that at the conference, each delegate should receive a printed tote bag containing the calendar and other information. It was agreed that this would be a good idea.	
		To send DR copies of the WOS logos in different formats.	JH
		There was also a suggestion to have a new pin-badge to sell or give away at the next conference.	
	18.58.5	Car stickers AN thanked DR for sourcing the car stickers.	
	18.58.6	Constitution IMS apologised to Council for not putting the changes about membership on the AGM agenda.	
		To have the proposed changes circulated to members at least 28 days before the next conference.	IMS
	18.58.7	Disturbances KJ reported some recent cases of disturbances to nesting birds that were of concern.	
	18.59	Dates of next meetings 9 March 2019 13 July 2019 16 November 2019 – conference 23 November 2019	
		Ian M Spence 25 November 2018	

Commented [GP1]: Did we not agree to reduce the price to £1?

