

Minutes of the Council meeting via Zoom on Saturday 10th July 2021

Present: Anne Brenchley, Alison Noble, Carlton Parry, Giles Pepler, Rhion Pritchard, Clare Ryland, Steve Sutcliffe, Daniel Jenkins-Jones, Kelvin Jones

Apologies for absence: Jez Smith, Mike Shewring, Dan Rouse, Anthony Caravaggi, Neil Lambert, Steve Stansfield

All present agreed for the meeting to be recorded. Recording to be made available to Council members only.

21.25		Minutes of the meetings held on 13th March 2021 and 30th June 2021	
		Minutes accepted.	
21.26		Matters arising	
		None additional to items already on the agenda.	
21.27		Chair's report	
		AB thanked everyone who had submitted reports in advance and recommended this be the norm for future Council meetings.	
		She thanked all Council members for their work through the Covid pandemic and hoped the next Council meeting in November could be face-to-face.	
21.28		Treasurer's report	
		Accounts for the year ended December 2020 were circulated prior to the meeting.	
		SSu had a query regarding the invoices received from LUP for <i>Birds of Wales</i> . An initial amount of £18250 was followed by a second invoice for £13250. If this equates to the final amount WOS will not need to draw any money from general funds as it was all covered by sponsorship. (This was confirmed by AB after the meeting).	
		WOS remains in a good situation financially.	
		Plans for a budget to be put on hold until website hosting costs and the situation regarding the annual conference are clarified.	
		SSu's term in office as Treasurer comes to an end in November 2021, he has agreed to stay on an additional year so that the position can be advertised.	
		SSu to put together brief job description to be advertised to membership.	SSu
21.29		Membership Secretary's report	
		Figures as of 27th June 2021 371 members: made up of 9 Life members, 319 Primary members and 43 Second members	

	<p>This year 25 new members have been signed up: 3 January; 7 February; 7 March; 5 April; 3 May; 0 June</p> <p>9 members have left, 5 members have been sent a subscription reminder letter.</p> <p>Since this report was circulated, 1 member has renewed, 1 has died and there is 1 new member.</p> <p>New members were joining at a rate of 1 a week in April but this has slowed. DJJ reported the same trend on Twitter and added that June had been busier.</p> <p>Pembrokeshire Bird Group has joined as an affiliated member. Gower and Carmarthen have not renewed so have been removed from the affiliates list.</p> <p>CR to contact Gower and Carmarthen to see whether there was a reason for not renewing, or whether this was an oversight</p> <p>AN to circulate the list of paid-up affiliates.</p>	<p>CR</p> <p>AN</p>
21.30	<p>Editor's report</p> <p>Report circulated before the meeting.</p> <p>For various reasons recent publications of the journal have been delayed, it is important to get this back on track so that the journals remain evenly spaced.</p> <p>Council confirmed the commitment to fund external temporary hosting of the journal for one year.</p> <p>Those Council members not able to attend the meeting on 30th June were asked about the decision to change the name of the journal to <i>Milvus: The Journal of the Welsh Ornithological Society</i> (21.24), all present were in agreement.</p> <p>The positioning of the journal was discussed. The main issue was that keeping a balance between academic 'scientific' papers and those from non-professionals was very important. The new guidelines circulated by A but not received by everyone due to a technical glitch, were very comprehensive but maybe off-putting to non-professionals. WOS needs to support people who have gathered very important data-sets but maybe are daunted by the prospect of publishing a paper. This will need further discussion by Council.</p> <p>RP noted that the ISSN will need to be changed when the journal is renamed and that the volume numbering would benefit from starting from the beginning i.e. <i>Milvus</i> 1</p>	
21.31	<p>Birds of Wales update</p> <p>RP advised the good news that the book has been published, pre-ordered copies should start to be delivered next week.</p>	

		<p>There have been 805 pre-publication orders (possibly a couple more to come) which LUP are very pleased with. The Publicity Group were thanked for their help in promoting the book including a 4-page spread in the July issue of <i>Birdwatch</i> magazine.</p> <p>Council members might be able to help with distribution of the complimentary copies to help reduce postage costs. Some recipients, such as IW, will need their copy sooner rather than later and these will be couriered.</p> <p>GP officially thanked all Council members involved for their hard work in bringing the book to publication.</p> <p>CR to check with SSu potential issue of a sponsor's name having been omitted from the book</p>	CR
21.32		<p>Conference 2021</p> <p>AN reported back on conversations with Aberystwyth and Swansea Universities regarding potential conference venues for November 2021. Aberystwyth is currently being used as a Covid testing centre, it would not be available on 6th November but would be available on either 13th or 20th November with some restrictions.</p> <p>Swansea University is only taking bookings for university business.</p> <p>It was agreed that in light of current Covid restrictions it was not feasible to hold a face-to-face conference this year and plans should be made for an online conference instead.</p> <p>Due to limited capacity on Council AB suggested using an external organisation to help set up an online conference.</p> <p>Some speakers who had been lined up for 2020 had agreed to speak this year instead, the theme of agriculture still being topical.</p> <p>KJ offered to check with Dawn at BTO to find out how the BTO online conferences were organised.</p> <p>AB to approach Cofnod to discuss same.</p> <p>CP to approach Sorcha Lewis to see if she would be prepared to carry over her talk originally scheduled for the 2020 conference.</p> <p>CR to canvas Council members on date for a meeting to discuss the conference within next 3-4 weeks. Monday 2nd, Friday 6th and Tuesday 10th August were suggested dates.</p>	KJ AB CP CR
21.33	33.01	<p>Publicity and Promotion update</p> <p>E-newsletter – DJJ explained the newsletter would be going out in a revised format as a PDF. There has been a slight delay getting it out but that has hopefully been resolved.</p> <p>It was noted that not all WOS members have an email address, but all members should receive the newsletter so some hard copies need to be printed and posted.</p>	

		<p>It was agreed that non-WOS members who have contributed to the newsletter should receive a copy.</p> <p>DJJ and AN to discuss most up-to-date list of members' emails, and those members who will need a paper copy.</p>	AN / DJJ
33.02	<p>Programme of Talks and Blogs</p> <p>Neither of these ideas have been progressed due to lack of time and resources. It may be possible to revisit one or both in the future.</p>		
33.03	<p>All-Wales Rookery survey 2022</p> <p>AB willing to be overall co-ordinator and liaise with BTO Cymru, RSPB Cymru, county bird recorders, affiliates and bird groups in order to set up network of 10-km stewards.</p> <p>Organised surveys can be combined with general observations / casual records.</p> <p>A bird ID clip from IW was suggested as a good idea.</p> <p>DJJ offered to contact Simon Taylor BTO Cornwall who organised a rook survey 2 years ago.</p> <p>AB to report back by email on progress before November Council meeting.</p> <p>CR to ask all Council members if they wish to join a separate rook sub-group.</p>	DJJ	AB
33.04	<p>Young Conservationists' Bursary promotion</p> <p>There is a general promotional issue with the bursary, with the take-up being very low. It might be possible to link it to the Rook survey in 2022.</p> <p>AB to discuss with JS</p>		CR
33.05	<p>Support of Council Members for future E-newsletters</p> <p>Council members were asked to help provide content ideas for the next E-newsletter.</p> <p>CR to send reminder to Council.</p>		AB / JS
33.06	<p>Future Facebook promotions</p> <p>Council was asked to approve a £10 spend for potential future weekly promotions which could generate up to 15000 extra views. This was approved unanimously.</p>		CR
21.34	<p>Small Grants</p> <p>AB circulated report prior to the meeting.</p>		

		<p>3 grants were awarded in 2021, 1 of which (Richard Facey and Rob Thomas) is to be carried over to 2022 due to problems with the delivery of the <i>Audiomoth</i> technology.</p> <p>A grant awarded in 2020 to Radnorshire Wildlife Trust for a local community project Developing SWIFTly was held over to 2021, but no progress has been reported thus far.</p> <p>It was noted that a few swift projects have been supported over the last couple of years, a Wales-wide swift article would be a good idea for the journal / E-newsletter.</p> <p>The grant offer might have to be made more flexible, with two application windows in a year instead of just one, and the ability to offer grants for projects which run for more than one year. A good grant could apply for follow-up money. This might attract a wider range of applications.</p> <p>AB to redo application form with new dates and criteria</p> <p>Comms team to promote the new form</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>DJJ / JS GP / DR CR</p>
21.35		<p>External Consultations</p> <p>35.01 Coastal Wind Energy plans</p> <p>WOS is part of a group looking at a response to a proposal for a Wind Energy farm off the NE coast of Wales. SSu and Bob Haycock are helping with this.</p> <p>35.02 Lead Ammunition campaign</p> <p>RSPB Cymru had asked for WOS support for this campaign, although the RSPB does not seem to have promoted it yet. WOS has tweeted it but so far there has been very little support for the petition with only 375 signatures. It seems unlikely that it will be upheld.</p> <p>35.03 Gylfinir Cymru / Curlew Recovery Plan</p> <p>The Welsh Government has made a positive reaction to calls for help and has given NRW substantial funding for land management, a substantial part of which was designated for curlew. No work was carried out this breeding season and there are some caveats attached to the funding, however hopefully 2022 will be more productive.</p> <p>AB to circulate letter from Gylfinir Cymru to the Welsh Government, and their reply.</p> <p>35.04 WOS guidance on planning applications / local issues</p> <p>Following the approach from RSPB about the lead ammunition campaign it was felt that WOS should have formal position statements about certain issues, particularly planning applications. It would be useful for general public to understand which issues WOS will get engaged in, and the reasons why WOS cannot get involved in every local issue.</p>	<p>AB</p>

		<p>Council to come up with a list of criteria which need to be met before WOS will intervene. This needs to be discussed at the November Council meeting.</p> <p>DJJ to draw up template email to send to GP to help deal with requests from local groups / members.</p>	DJJ
21.36		<p>BTO Cymru and RSPB Cymru</p> <p>Reports were circulated prior to the meeting. Please raise any issues with the authors with copy to the rest of Council.</p> <p>CR to re-forward KJ's BTO update as several Council members had not received it.</p>	CR
21.37		<p>WBRC report</p> <p>Report circulated prior to meeting and taken as read.</p> <p>AB to contact SSt about outstanding issue to do with data ownership.</p>	AB
21.38		<p>AOB</p>	
	38.01	<p>Need to arrange a virtual AGM before next Council meeting, CR and AB to discuss</p>	AB / CR
	38.02	<p>Photographic Competition – GP circulated report prior to the meeting</p> <p>Changes to the categories were discussed but it was decided to stick with the humorous category as it attracted by far the most engagement on Social Media.</p> <p>Deadline for entries 30th September for judging to take place in October. Although the original judges all confirmed willingness to judge the competition for a second year, one has subsequently moved to Glasgow and it was felt that a Wales-based judge was essential.</p> <p>DJJ to check with KJ about BTO Cymru ambassadors to find another member of the judging panel.</p>	DJJ
		Next Council Meetings	
		<p>20th November 2021 – CR to arrange venue in Newtown March 2022 – exact date TBA July 2022 – exact date TBA November 2022 – exact date TBA</p>	CR
		Clare Ryland	
		11 th July 2021	