

Kent Ornithological Society

Executive Committee Meeting 14th September 2022 via Zoom

Draft Minutes (Taken by Chris Roome)

Attending: Andre Farrar (AF); Chris Roome(CR); Mike Henty (MH); Barry Wright (BF); Murray Orchard (MO); Gary Howard (GH); Martin Collins (MC).

Apologies: Brendan Ryan; Keith Privett; Robin Mace.

1. Key Matters for Discussion:

- a) **Winter Meeting Programme** – CR reported a programme of talks. October 19th; November 16th; December 14th; January 18th; February 15th. March 15th. All on Zoom at 7.00pm lasting one hour. Three speakers approached already and other suggestions included: Juliet Vickery; Paul Holt; The Tower of London Raven Master. **Other suggestions please to CR. Action CR to confirm.**
- b) **RSPB/KOS liaison re Dungeness.** AF submitted written report in advance of the meeting. Work on replacement Makepeace Hide beginning soon. A new screen will be close to the old Makepeace hide site. It was voted and agreed unanimously that KOS contribute £5k to the new hide costs. KOS Logo and acknowledgment will be prominent. AF noted that KOS needed to consider fundraising for Conservation in future.
- c) **KOS Twitter account.** – This is currently under used and the meeting was unaware of who runs the account. This issue was noted and agreement was made to discuss at later date. **Action: Away Day.**
- d) **Away Day for Executive Committee:** Would all members note that the next meeting of the KOS Exec is to be an awayday on **January 7th 2023**. Venue to be advised. Issues marked “**Away day**” to be discussed on January 7th. Please mark date in diaries.

2. Updates:

- a) **Database replacement:** the meeting noted comments from Robin Mace that work on Cobra replacement is currently paused as he is readying data for 2021 KBR. It was agreed that Chris Dee be contacted to arrange an online meeting to discuss progress on this issue and a completion date. **Action: CR to contact Chris Dee**
- b) **Treasurer’s Update:** MH reported that KOS has £32.4K of reserves. £5.2K has been spent digitising paper records. The KBR and the Anniversary 1952 Facsimile KBR will be c£1.8K more than last year’s KBR expenditure. We have c£25K reserves. £14.4K is earmarked for Birds of Kent but a digital version may well be substantially cheaper. Advertising in the KBR was raised by BW as a means of raising funds. CR reminded meeting that subs were to rise to £15 per year from January 1st 2023. As noted above the £5K donation to the RSPB for the new Makepeace Hide was approved. MH updated progress on e-banking and this is closed to realisation.
- c) **Membership:** CR reported 108 new members in 2022 thus far. 22 of them are women. We currently have 800 paid up members.

d) **Kent Bird Report 2020:** Committee were pleased to note that the 2020 KBR was due to be printed and circulated to members. CR added that the KBR would also be accompanied by 1952 Anniversary Facsimile KBR. AF suggested publicity activity re this development and MC suggested sending a copy to all Kent MPs. **Action AF/CR**

e) **Editorial & Records Committee.** BW reported a planned meeting for October/November. There followed a general discussion on some of the difficulties in ensuring greater accuracy in the KBR and especially the reporting of rare birds to relevant bodies BBRC; BTO etc etc. It was noted that there is a need for an established and publicised protocol ensuring that BW - as the County Recorder – was **always** informed about such birds found in the County. BW mentioned a flowchart showing the process that could/should(?) be always followed in such case. **Action: BW to sketch out such a flow chart? Discuss at Away Day**

f) **Surveys & Conservation Committee:** MO reported that the committee had met twice in the current year. He reported on developments- Old Deer Park near Canterbury – and that KOS will be joining objections to the development. MO wishes for there to be a Nightingale survey by KOS in 2023.(10 years since last one.) The KWT Chough release programme has been delayed. It was noted that plans for a reservoir at Broad Oak had been revived. There was a discussion of avian flu and the lack of central organisation and planning in the face of the outbreak was deplored. **Action: MO - Nightingale Survey 2023**

3. AOB

a) CR reported on the rising costs of Zoom for a business and the implications for KOS setting up a business account. **Action: CR to research further.**

b) MO requested wider access to the website as administrators – especially regarding Survey matters. This needs to be raised with Chris Dee and training be made available. **Away Day**