



## **Kent Ornithological Society**

### **Executive Committee – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (via zoom)**

#### **Draft Minutes**

**Present:** Andre Farrar (Chair), Chris Roome, Martin Collins, Mike Henty, Gary Howard, Robin Mace Murray Orchard, Keith Privett (KPr), Brendan Ryan,

Apologies: Barry Wright, Kieron Palmer (KPa)

#### **1. Key matters for decision or discussion**

##### **1.1 Follow up and recommendations from Engagement Committee.**

MC provided an update on the next stage of the membership survey and the next set of questions to go out soon regarding members' birding habits.

The discussion on mentoring had been deferred.

James King had been involved in the meeting and was complimentary of the website.

Kieron Palmer has been named as the key KOS contact for Chris Dee in regard to the management and development of the website. It was agreed to increase internet security, members of the committee should have KOS e mail addresses. KP to facilitate.

MC provided an update on developing a merchandising offer. He had brokered a deal with a local company that could sell directly to our members so that KOS would not have to hold stock or make any financial outlay. KOS would get 12% of sales value. Getting the logo onto hats had proved difficult but it was agreed that a slightly refined logo without the name would be acceptable. The company couldn't supply pin badges but were exploring options with other suppliers.

Everything was ready to go and it was agreed that we should aim to launch by 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. Martin to liaise with KP, Heather Mathieson and CR over marketing launch

CR outlined bookings for winter meeting programme.

AF was keen to develop a KOS blog which he undertook to facilitate

Free membership to under 25s had been launched. 14 had signed up so far. There was a discussion about the need to engage with student bodies in the universities.

MC asked about progress of Health and Safety assessments for field meetings. BR said that he had received information for Paul Holt but had found it difficult to arrange a meeting with Ray O’Rielly as they seemed to be rarely in the county at the same time.

AF asked about follow up to the Keith Betton offer to host an experience sharing meeting with Hampshire OS. BR said he had forward the e mail while he was away and the event may have already happened but he will contact Keith Betton to see what could be done.

**Action: Merchandising offer to be launched by 1<sup>st</sup> Oct (MC)**

**KPa to arrange e mail addresses for committee members**

**BR to follow up with RO’R health and safety assessments for outdoor meetings**

**BR to follow up with Hampshire OS**

## **1.2 Migration Day**

An on-line discussion had been initiated about having some kind of birding festival akin to Spurn’s Migration Festival and similar events held in Essex. It was suggested that an autumn event expanding on Samphire Hoe autumn event, extending it to other migration hot spots in east and South Kent. MC had sounded out Paul Holt at Samphire Hoe.

**Action: AF and MC to meet Paul Holt to discuss options.**

## **2. Updates**

### **2.1 Cobra replacement**

RM reported that limited progress had been made. A key element – an ad hoc reporting tool was still missing.

### **2.2 Treasurer’s Report**

MH reported that he had received assurances from our insurers that the restrictions on environmental campaigning would not apply to activities involving KOS.

Income was down as a result to adjustments paypal payments and the need to cancel subscriptions set up at the old rate. It is hoped that members will set up new payments once they realise that they don’t receive newsletters or the KBR. Non payers are being deleted from the website access.

### **2.3 Membership**

48 members had been removed for non payment. Currently 824 members including 91 new members this year plus the 14 under 25s.

Need to publicise the publication of the KBR as a prompt to non payers

**Action: Publication of next KBR to be publicised on website and on KOS social media platforms.**

### **2.4 Kent Bird Report**

Final formatting taking place with latest edition and anticipated to be with the printers in the next couple of weeks.

Printing cost has risen from £5,300 to £5,650.

Problems of delays in getting records and report from Dungeness discussed.

**Action KPr and AF to discuss letter from KOS chair to DBO chair, offering support.**

## **2.4 Editorial and Records Committee**

BW was out of the country and had nothing to report.

## **2.5 Surveys and Conservation Committee**

MO reported that the Nightingale survey data was being collated. David Smith was taking over the role of Rare Breeding Birds coordinator from next year.

Next up was a winter gull roost survey. A BTO survey with counts required in Jan 24, Sept 24 and Jan 2025

Potential Marsh Tit survey being considered for 2024. Sussex and Hampshire surveys suggest numbers may be greater than previously thought.

MC suggested that a survey of a more visible species would be useful as a public engagement exercise.

## **3. Diversity**

CR had reviewed the approach taken by a number of similar organisations. Many had made a positive statement about their commitment to promoting diversity. He recommended committee members to look at the Dorset Bird Club

Agreed that a full discussion to take place at Strategy Day in January and that Heather Mathieson and Nicole Khan should be invited to be involved.

**Action: BR to add to agenda for strategy day**

**CR to invite Nicola and Heather to the strategy day in Jan**

## **4. Administrative matters**

### **4.1 Minutes of previous meeting (June 2023)**

Minutes agreed.

### **4.2 AF to explore venue for January strategy day- Dungeness or Godmersham Village Hall**

### **34.3 Future meetings**

10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

13<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (provisional strategy day- TBA)