



Kent Ornithological Society - Executive Committee Minutes

7.00pm, 9 July 2024

Present: Andre Farrar, Chris Roome, Murray Orchard, Peter Eerdmans, Keith Privett (Kpr), Martin Collins, Barry Wright, Gary Howard, Mike Henty

Apologies: Robin Mace, Kieron Palmer (KPa)

1. Key Matters for decision or discussion

- i. Kent Bird Migration Day – 28 September
 - i. AF has confirmed Sandwich Bay, Samphire Hoe and Dungeness RSPB as main sites. Still reaching out to Dungeness BO.
 - ii. Announcement will be added to News Letter, after that member email, including asking for volunteers, and encouraging to take part with sightings. Also adding to website, X, Facebook. MC has started on the poster, which will have QR code to relevant KOS web page.
 - iii. Other sites can/need to join in with sightings, but won't be formally manned with KOS stand
 - iv. We also need to produce supporting material: KOS banner, hand-out flyers
 - v. We are looking to pick a few species as core species to feature on the day.
 - vi. Ringers will be present at Samphire Hoe and SBBO (and maybe DBO if they join). AF to confirm.
 - vii. **Action: AR to rope people in as and when necessary**
- ii. Birds of Kent
 - i. Chris Dee getting a bit frustrated how slow things are moving. We need to sort Cobra replacement to be able to really move forward.
 - ii. We probably can make progress with Birds of Kent as we now can get data out of sightings database (as per recent new North Downs NNR request), and the work group will be able to give quick feedback to Chris Dee to avoid future frustrations. To be decided when AF has spoken to RM (see below).
 - iii. Brendan Ryan to lead Birds of Kent work group.
- iii. Cobra-replacement
 - i. RM has been away and little progress has been made. AF to chase RM to really find out what the issues are, as we don't really know how far we are away from completion. Also need to ask RM to send round the examples as we discussed last time.
 - ii. **Action: AF to contact RM and report back so we can push forward with Birds of Kent**

2. Updates (including actions from last meeting)

- i. Membership



- i. 38 new paying members this year, plus 3 new under 25
 - ii. Sent 34 letters to members with no email, 14 responded with email address.
- ii. Treasurer's update
 - i. Bill from Chris Dee arrived at £480
 - ii. As per last meeting action, MH is organising correct registrations for PE and CR
 - iii. Not heard from Chas on the £1000 payment for the supplying of data.
 - iv. **Action: MO to forward email from Chas to MH, to check if he needs an invoice to arrange this payment.**
- iii. Editorial and Records Committee
 - i. BW is helping out KPr on KBR
 - ii. Also considering changes on the Rarities Committee.
 - iii. Not yet followed up on 'public' Goshawk site. We doubt it is needed. The Surrey Honey Buzzard site is not a great success as location not ideal for access and parking. We can leave till there is a truly suitable site available.
- iv. Surveys and Conservation Committee
 - i. Autumn Gull Count on 27 Sept appeal coming up
 - ii. MO has created short-list of priority species list for the county to support the new Nature Recovery strategy for Kent
 - iii. Data for North Downs NNR done
 - iv. Key site (Old Park) near Canterbury up for sale, AF to stay close. Swanscombe is also coming up for sale.
- v. Engagement Committee
 - i. Committee met on June 6
 - ii. The KOS website is a key focus. Committee is looking to improve the website.
 - iii. **Action: MC and KP to make a proposal for website improvement**
 - iv. Merchandise: we are looking to add small badges. Committee still deciding how to use, e.g. sell, or give to longer-term members.
 - v. Committee has started thinking about an in-person afternoon coinciding with 2025 AGM. University of Kent could be a good location, where we may get cheap rates (through AF). We would look for a big name speaker. We could have more than one speaker. Suggestion is Simon from Elmley, who is a great speaker.
 - vi. **Action: CR to continue organising AGM**
- vi. KBR
 - i. We are looking to publish mid-August. KPr has sent draft copies for comment from BW, MO and Andrew. Cover drawing has been received from Stephen. We agree to add a car sticker with the KBR (**action CR**).
- vii. Scanned record cards
 - i. KPr has met with MC who now has all the pdfs downloaded on his PC. The data has a lot of potential. Some drawings/paintings of rare birds as well as original rarity submissions could be uploaded to Birds of Kent. Ideally, we get records into Cobra, but that would be a lot of work. Maybe we should await AI progress in coming years, as then it could be automated.



3. Administration matters

- i. Minutes of last meeting (1 May 2024) approved with small edits
- ii. Upcoming meeting dates
 - i. 18 September
 - ii. 4 December

4. Any other business

- i. **Action: PE to check on revised rules with BR before next AGM**