



Kent Ornithological Society - Executive Committee

7.30pm, 4 December 2024

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

Apologies: Barry Wright

1. Key Matters for decision or discussion

1. Dungeness Shop closure implications
 - i. We discuss the closure of the shop at Dungeness. Sad but understandable.
 - ii. We thank the shop staff wholeheartedly for all their work over the years
 - iii. Visitor Centre will remain, but not 100% clear in what form (eg with drinks or not)
 - iv. Replacement of Makepeace hide will still go ahead in early 2025
 - v. AF has spoken with Charlotte, Alan and others at RSPB and we are considering to make a proposal to host quarterly KOS open days at the Visitor Centre. Could include some permanent posters. Days would include KOS-led walk, presence of KOS members. We can think of other activities/talks.
 - vi. Will include the next migration day as one of the four.
 - vii. **Action: AF to pursue this idea, including setting dates**
2. Social Media Content (also see minutes from Engagement Committee)
 - i. Hootsuite can be used to post on each of Twitter, Bluesky, Facebook, Instagram in one go.
 - ii. Need to involve Norman given overlap with newsletter. We could spread the newsletter out over the two months, with a key summary newsletter then published bi-monthly. To be discussed maybe at next year's away-day?
 - iii. AF to start a blog
 - iv. PE to start a 'Kent Birding Highlights of the week'. We will try it out for some weeks and then survey members. If they really like it we need to consider formalising it with a back up. Or is it acceptable to miss the odd week?
 - v. Consider Facebook advertising
 - vi. Do we need tailor the website to tailor to all this? Can start of as 'news articles' and then consider as we get more experience.
 - vii. **Action: PE to take forward and start from early January. Meet with Martin and get familiar with hootsuite**
 - viii. **Action: MC to approach Hootsuite for a discounted license. Hopefully getting it down to £25 per month (switching from zoom to Teams can also save some money)**
3. AGM: date, content, location



- i. AF to meet with DICE tomorrow, confirm rate and set a date (pre 15 April to bear in mind birders preference to be outdoor in spring)
 - ii. Once date CR can organise speakers, etc
4. Kent Bird Migration Day – Review and plans for next year
 - i. Agreed to go ahead on last Sunday of September 2025
 - ii. To be organised in due course
5. Charitable donations to LSW and Shellness, including fundraising ideas
 - i. There is a proposal to support the LSW survey project, supplying acoustic monitoring equipment (£2500) and the Shellness project to protect nesting shore birds and Little Terns with trail cameras, nest cages and hedgehog fencing (£2500).
 - ii. The acoustic equipment could be used in future surveys for KOS.
 - iii. Exec is sympathetic to these charitable gifts on an ad-hoc basis. We would look for an itemised budget for the Shellness project (we already have it for LSW). We also need to talk to Brian (Shellness) on what entity we pay into. Or maybe we own the kit and lend out.
 - iv. We also like the idea of more fundraising for these type of projects on our website. For future action.
 - v. **Action: MO to send KP the detailed LSW project for final approval**
 - vi. **Action: MO to agree more details with Brian before we commit**

2. Updates (including actions from last meeting)

1. Birds of Kent/Cobra replacement
 - i. Meeting held with Chris Dee, who is now back from Lundy. He will sort the website out shortly, for which the costs have been agreed and signed off. He has already done the work on visits/click statistics on the website.
 - ii. Once website done, Chris Dee will create costed proposal for BoK.
 - iii. KOS sightings database vs eBird/BirdTrack (as per Essex chair letter): we see relatively little overlap with significant number of observers only posting on KOS website. So we feel we need to continue KOS website sightings. AF and some others to join Zoom with other bird clubs next week on this topic among other things.
 - iv. Cobra replacement not quite done.
 - v. **Action: RM to finalise Cobra replacement and organise handovers into next year**
 - vi. **Action from last time: BW to check how London Bird Report handles all the different data sources and what we could learn**
 - vii. **Action: MC to report on the BoK workgroup in this forum going forward.**
2. Membership/Engagement committee
 - i. Slight decline to 750
 - ii. KBRs available for selling in shops such as Sandwich Bay or Sevenoaks Wildlife Centre.
3. Treasurer's update
 - i. We paid for the KBR (£8090), which is £1200 below budget



- ii. PE now approved for Lloyds banking; Brendan can now be removed.
4. Editorial and Records Committee
- i. KBR: all writers will continue for 2023. RMto provide data hopefully before Christmas. We will be stricter on deadline, and not allow delays. Given all the data on eBird and BirdTrack we have significant enough coverage to publish. In terms of articles, the Nightingale survey should be in. Should we ask Stephen Message for a Nightingale on the cover? Also, should we consider paid advertisements?
5. Surveys and Conservation Committee
- i. Winter Gull count in January, should go well as usual.
 - ii. Funding now organised for survey for Woodlark, Nightjar and Dartford Warbler next year
 - iii. LSW survey imminent with acoustic equipment (see above)
 - iv. Atlas happening 2027-2031
 - v. WeBS meeting in Sandwich Bay with counters from all areas was very good, with some rare breeding records confirmed in 2024.
 - vi. Dungeness RSPB has been relatively under-surveyed with only WeBS counts done in Sept-March period. We also know of annual challenges with data for KBR.
 - vii. **Action: AF/MO to organise a 'Dungeness data get-together' to help solve these issues. To involve Alan Johnson, could broaden it to other RSPB reserves.**
6. Engagement Committee
- i. See minutes which were shared separately.
 - ii. Update on DICE advisory board: good relationship. Request to provide some opportunities for their students, eg ringing or surveys
3. **Administration matters**
- 1. Minutes of last meeting (18 Sept) approved
 - 2. Upcoming meeting dates agreed for 2025:
 - 5 March
 - 4 June
 - 10 September
 - 3 December
4. **Any other business**
- 1. Kieron Palmer has now officially stepped down from Exec. He will remain on the engagement committee.
 - 2. **Action: CR to consider Privacy Policy in light of new data protection rules and make sure it is on website**
 - 3. **Action: CR to send a nice Christmas letter with copy of small booklet to junior members**
 - 4. Quotes for KOS pin badges: 1500 would cost £1020. Views mixed on if this is worth it/will work. We agree to put on ice.



5. **Action: CR to chat to Ray O'Reilly on the risk assessment on his walks.** Paul Holt knows a lot about this and can be used on what we need to do. We should also offer Ray a specific first aid course.

Pro-memory

1. Agree new rules at next AGM (they have been posted for comments on the website)