



Kent Ornithological Society - Executive Committee

7.30pm, 5 March 2025

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

Apologies: Barry Wright

1. Key Matters for decision or discussion

1. Birds of Kent

- i. Chris Dee still lined up to do the project
- ii. Brendan Ryan and Andrew Henderson sending information and tables to Chris Dee so he can get the template done.
- iii. Once template is done, we can drop in all data that we already have got (breeding bird atlas, Andrew content, photographs, etc)
- iv. Key challenge will be to keep it up-to-date. Need to create a small editing team, who can organise annual updates based on KBR.
- v. MC warns on the use of Joomla, which is fine for the website but might not be able to deal with all the data needed for BoK and makes things quite difficult to update.
- vi. **Action: MO to contact Jack Fearnside about texts for the Kent Breeding Bird Atlas**
- vii. **Action: Brendan Ryan to keep us posted on Chris Dee's reaction and timeline**

2. Mike Henty / Gary Howard - Treasurer change

- i. We are now actioning the long-planned transition from MH to GH as Treasurer of the KOS.
- ii. Will make the change formally at the forthcoming AGM
- iii. MH to remain deputy-treasurer role for a year and stay on Exec and help out.
- iv. We will properly thank MH in due course after being Treasurer for close to 20 years!
- v. **Action: MH, GH and CR to organise zoom to sort out transfer**
- vi. **Action: PE to add item to AGM agenda**

3. AGM

- i. We decide to do a normal, zoom-based AGM in April: Wednesday 30 April
- ii. **Action: AF, PE, CR to set agenda and organise invites**
- iii. We keep DICE warm for a 2026 event

2. Updates (including actions from last meeting)

1. Membership

- i. Hovers around 750



- ii. Keen to get more people joining, for which we have actions planned (Dungeness days, social media, migration day, BoK launch).
 - iii. We should look into household members, maybe we should action registering these better, or even consider a more expensive family membership. Something for the future.
2. Treasurer's update
- i. MH circulated the 2024 accounts with notes and as checked by Keith Ellis
 - ii. Insurance due 1 April at £176.
 - iii. BTO invoice for Nightingale survey work approved at £744
 - iv. Brian has withdrawn request for Shellness donation as it is now funded by RSPB
3. Editorial and Records Committee
- i. KBR work going well, aiming for species account drafts by April.
4. Surveys and Conservation Committee
- i. Nightingale results being written up as data has been received. Once finished, we will create a news item across various channels
 - ii. Lesser Spot Woodpecker survey starting well with acoustic sensors being deployed.
 - iii. BTO Heathland Bird survey: key focus currently to get all key squares covered
 - iv. Quite a lot going on with new developments, with Old Park the focus now. MoD has put their land on the open market. Friends of Old Park have been great driving this campaign. Ultimate aim is to get Old Park assigned as an Asset of Community Value.
 - v. AF spoke to Dungeness RSPB and DBO about survey data, but not easy to solve as RSPB not keen to do a full year survey which DBO want. Could we set out more clearly what we need precisely as a minimum? We could offer to do more survey work by our members to support.
 - vi. In general we get requests to do surveys on farm land, but often difficult to fit in given limited resources
 - vii. **Action: MO to write minimum/ideal requirement for survey work on RSPB reserves**
5. Engagement Committee
- i. Weeklies, blogs, shorter messages are all well received.
 - ii. Chris Dee has provided some ability to check stats of website visits
 - iii. Need more people to join the engagement committee, especially as we expand activities
 - iv. Dungeness days:
 - 1. See paper circulated by AF
 - 2. Dungeness VC will continue even as shop closed now
 - 3. KOS has offered to host days at Dungeness throughout the year,
 - 4. We can organise our own days, but also expected to help out with RSPB days and joint days, like Migration days.



5. We consider quarterly days on weekends, with migration day included
6. Need volunteers for walks and talks, meet&greet, banners around the reserve, name badges, etc
7. We will look to add a day specifically for our u25 members
- v. **Action: AF to take Dungeness days forward**
- vi. **Action: CR has drafted diversity policy, will share with Exec for next meeting**
- vii. **Action: CR to check risk assessment protocols for KOS outdoor walks**
- viii. **Action: PE to add Data protection wording to website**

3. Administration matters

1. Minutes of last meeting (4 Dec) attached
2. Upcoming meeting dates
 - i. 2025 dates:
 - 4 June
 - 3 September
 - 3 December

4. Any other business

1. PE to archive Weekly highlights after 2-3 weeks (add end date when publishing). Also, on the right hand side, the 'Featured' button can make a document 'sticky'
2. MO met Stefan at Sandwich, he has several old folders, eg on Snow Buntings. If someone wants it, do contact Stefan
3. Andrew Henderson appreciated the visit by MO and the gift (tree sparrow painting) very much
4. User management on website: see RM note explaining the two types of users. We should not delete users from system as we will lose historic observers' data. But we need to be careful with any rights under GDPR - clearly we do delete them from membership database, and we should be able to delete user data on website, which is separate, on request.
5. **Action: PE to block tshirt seller on KOS facebook page**
6. **Action: AF consider date for an away day with the Exec, with topics such as recruiting new/younger/diverse members, appointing deputies, Robin Mace longer-term hand-over, member acquisition, etc.**