



Kent Ornithological Society
Providing information about Birds and Birdwatching in Kent

Executive Committee

Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 10 July 2014 at 7:00pm at Brogdale Farm, Brogdale Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8XZ

Present: Martin Coath, (Chair), Jack Chantler, Mike Henty, Robin Mace, Norman McCanch, Tony Morris, Geoff Orton, Keith Privett, Chris Roome, Mike Roser, Brendan Ryan and Barry Wright.

1. Chairman's Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Anthea Skiffington and Stephen Wood.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2014 were accepted as an accurate record.

3. Promotions and Publicity

BR led the discussion and mentioned that he and TM hoped to co-opt a young volunteer who is currently working at the Medway CP project. Brendan will contact him. They and any other interested EC or other members or volunteers have agreed to form a Publicity Sub-committee reporting back to EC.

Action: Brendan Ryan, Tony Morris

BR felt that we need to use Twitter and update our Facebook page more frequently. Kent Birders have a Facebook page too. There is a big birding community out there. We can use these social media to advertise our Indoor and outdoor meetings, initiated by the relevant organiser, as well as other significant events or news.

Action: Brendan Ryan, Tony Morris, Anthea Skiffington

BR informed the committee that any discussion within Facebook can be restricted to KOS members; it can be moderated to remove any sensitive information or objectionable comments. As with the Forum this could be a source for the *KOS News*. It would be useful to discuss our social media parameters with our volunteer.

Alex has all but rebuilt the website, but we have to manage the data and content in the new format. Brendan can delegate the content to EC or other members, such as Mike Gould and Warren Baker. We will need to protect some of the existing pages such as old sightings and Atlas data and there will be a hyperlink to the old site.

We pay for the same hosting service. A lot of data now needs culling.

There will be a rolling programme of photos.

The Forum and Database will stand alone. It is hoped that the new site will be up and running at the end of the summer.

MC read out the main points from Andy's email about EC organisation. Some points are already on board; others will be discussed, but we cannot work on two KBRs at the same time as a lot of the important data does not reach us until at least six months after the end of the year.

It was agreed that Tony, Chris and Barry will attend the AGM of the Tonbridge RSPB AGM to talk about the KOS. They will of course publicise the new *Atlas*. Martin mentioned that he gave a brief talk at the end of the latest AGM of Maidstone RSPB.

Action: Brendan Ryan

4. Membership

CR reported that membership has fallen to 651 with only 13 joining this year. He has been robust in removing members who have not paid up after two reminders. He suggested that our publicity should emphasise the point that KOS is the only body responsible for maintaining records of birds in the county.

Action: Chris Roome

5. *Kent Bird Report*

KP reported that he is building the final version. It could have been out three months earlier, but for strategic delays. However useful additional records have arrived in the meantime. The report will go to the printers next week and CR will email members at the appropriate time. Other publicity will follow.

Action: Keith Privett, Jack Chantler, Chris Roome

RM reported that he will be chasing 2013 data to be processed in September.

Action: Robin Mace

Geoff will ask the BTO if we can include an article about the Nightingale survey, but it is not clear who owns the data.

Action: Geoff Orton

6. Kent Breeding Bird Atlas 2008 – 11

SW was unable to attend, but Norman McCanch gave members an update on progress. The book is progressing towards the proof reading stage, and all the photographs have been chosen by Gavin Coultrip and approved by the editorial committee. MC said that we would like to produce a Winter Atlas and Murray Orchard is keen, but there are no specific plans as yet. A third volume covering Kent rarities would also be desirable.

Action: Stephen Wood

7. KOS News

Norman McCanch commented that although *KOS News* is not a publication for up-to-date news, he believes that Chris Hindle's round-up of sightings is a useful and interesting item, and EC members agreed.

He has a number of book reviews on the stocks. One is The "Diaries of Collingwood Ingram", 1880-1981, who was a West Kent birder. It is a fascinating read.

Only 50 members receive a paper copy; 416 get the email of whom 67% open it - a high hit rate. A significant number apparently get nothing, but this has not been a real source of complaints.

Action: Norman McCanch

Barry Wright will supply the latest decisions on rarities.

Action: Barry Wright

There was a comment that those who get the hard copy get a lesser deal, but KP preferred to say that those who receive it online get an expanded version which includes more photos.

8. Treasurer's Report

MHreferred the EC to his recent email. He had nothing further to report.

Action: Mike Henty

9. Indoor Meetings

Anthea has reported by email. It should not be difficult to get people to give talks at the November meeting, but they need not be committee members. We can use Social Media to ask for volunteers and Martin could ask on the Forum. Martin will ask Anthea to email something to Robin for the website.

Action: Anthea Skiffington

10. Outdoor Meetings

MR reported that Ray O'Reilly has agreed to take over from him the organisation of outdoor meetings. The Website, Forum and Social Media will be a triple spearhead of communication.

MR acknowledged that there is nothing original about the venues, but they are where people want to go, so we were all happy about that. Attendances are not high, but too many can be an embarrassment. There is usually either Mike and/or Chris in attendance as well. No one wanted to discontinue the service.

Action: Mike Roser

11. Website and Forum

This is still rather quiet, but still a means of communication and there was no real move to close it down.

12. Editorial and Records Sub-Committee

BW reported that there would be a meeting on Saturday 19th July probably at Sandwich Bay.

Action: Barry Wright

Robin Mace reported that the data transfer from COBRA is proceeding, but it is a major task. We will need to train Area Recorders in the new system.

Action: Robin Mace

13. Conservation and Surveys Sub-Committee

Norman reported that we shall soon be receiving the minutes of the June meeting. This covered surveys of Peregrines, Winter Thrushes, Turtle Doves, discussions about the Atlas, Sandwich Terns and Med Gulls in the Medway Estuary, where there may be money available for habitat creation, the possible appearance of Baillon's Crakes, the proposals for a Thames Estuary airport, the new Lower Thames Crossing and housing development in Thanet.

Action: Norman McCanch, Stephen Wood

14. Any Other Business

No recent deaths have been reported, but there will be four obituaries in the 2013 KBR.

Action: Keith Privett

Tony kindly offered to take over the key to Grove Green from Geoff for the October meeting.

Action: Tony Morris

15. Date and Time of the Next Meeting:

The favourite dates for the next meeting were either October 23rd or 30th. SW will confirm in due course.

Action: Stephen Wood