

Kent Ornithological Society

Executive Committee

Bearstead Memorial Hall, Manor Rise Bearstead ME14 4DB

7.00pm 15th May 2019

Present: Martin Coath (Chair), Mike Henty (Hon Treasurer), Brendan Ryan (Hon. Secretary), Barry Wright, Murray Orchard, Martin Warburton, Keith Privett.

Apologies: Stephen Wood, Norman McCanch, Andre Farrar, Chris Roome, Ray O'Reilly, Robin Mace.

The Chairman welcomed Martin Warburton to the committee

1. Key matters for decision or discussion

1.1 KOS data base and archive

CR had provided a detailed paper outlining the progress made by the working group. The progress was noted and endorsed. The issue of e-bird records were discussed at length as this was a form of recording that seemed destined to grow. The working group were asked to add e-bird to the penultimate bullet point of its aims. The Executive Committee extended its thanks to CR for his energy in getting this important project moving.

Action: CR to amend aims of group to include e-bird records

1.2 "Nature Needs You" event 31st August

KOS had been contacted by Maidstone Museum, who were running and "Endangered and extinct" exhibition in August. KOS had been asked to participate. The Committee agreed that we should support the event. BR and MO agreed to attend the meeting but other volunteers would be welcomed.

There was a discussion about the quality of the KOS display material to support this and other events. BR had previously obtained quotes for display stands but this had not been agreed by the committee. It was agreed that BR could commission some display materials and was allocated a budget of £600. BR pointed out that he was away for most of the period up to the event so meeting the deadline might be tight. Consideration should also be given to reviewing the leaflets promoting the Society and membership. There was a need to produce literature for the event, with potential focus on birds that have gone from Kent (Willow Tit) or are declining rapidly (Turtle Dove).

Action: BR to confirm KOS participation to organisers

BR and MO to attend event

BR to explore updating display materials in time for the event

1.3 Indoor Meetings

A couple of members had raised the potential resurrection of an indoor meeting programme. There was a wide-ranging discussion about the pros and cons of having an indoor meeting programme. Possibility of linking a couple of talks to the AGM to be held on a Saturday afternoon was mooted.

It was agreed that we should look to undertake a membership survey using Survey Monkey to explore members' appetite for indoor meetings and explore other issues and attitudes.

Action: BR to look into on line membership survey

1.4 Fair Isle Bird Observatory

The possibility of the Society making a donation for the restoration of Fair Isle Bird Observatory had been mooted by a member at the AGM. The Executive felt that the issue should be considered should any appeal be made in the future, however concerns were expressed as to whether we should fund projects out of the county and also concerns about the as yet unknown financial requirements for the new database.

1.5 Communications

The Committee expressed its appreciation of the excellent interview done by Andre Farrar on Radio Kent. It was important that media outlets like Radio Kent see KOS as the "go to" organisation for ornithological matters in the county.

There was a discussion about renewing our display materials and membership fliers (see above)

The issue about incentives to encourage young people to join the Society was deferred to the next meeting

2. Updates

2.1 Kent Bird Report

KP explained the latest position regarding the production of the 2017 KBR. RM had indicated that the data should be with the writers by the end of the week.

2.2 Treasurer's report

MH outlines an issue with the bank not accepting cheques that had variations of Kent Ornithological Society as payee e.g. KOS, Kent OS etc. The Committee authorised the Treasurer to agree and sign an indemnity form to allow the bank to accept cheques that didn't have the full name of the Society as payee.

2.3 Conservation and Surveys sub committee

MO provided an update on ongoing surveys. A statement on Turtle Dove records was discussed

2.4 Editorial and Records committee

BW reported potential options for scanning the old paper records following similar work undertaken by Dungeness BO and SBBO. E&R Committee to undertake further work to identify requirements and cost of scanning historic records.

Cattle Egret had been removed as a county description species but Kentish Plover had been added in anticipation of it becoming a BBRC description species in the future. The E&R Committee had also considered how to treat heard only records in the light of the increasing use of equipment to record nocturnal migration.

There was a discussion about the colour coding used on the KOS database. The E&R Committee undertook to review this at some point in the future.

Action: BW (Facebook), NMCC (Newsletter) notify members of changes to description status of Cattle Egret and Kentish Plover

2.5 Newsletter

NMCC had questioned whether the Executive Committee membership needed to be included in each edition of the newsletter, an apparent legacy of the old paper version of the newsletter. It was agreed that this was not necessary as the information was available on the website. Committee membership should be reported in the newsletter after the AGM and if there were any changes during the year.

Action: NMCC to note decision in respect of Committee membership

2.6 Membership

CR had provided a written report in his absence. The report was noted. Membership had remained fairly constant at around 709 members.

3. Administrative matters

3.1 Minutes of previous meeting (10th January 2019)

Approved

3.2 Draft minutes of AGM

Approved

4. Date and time of next meeting 19th September 2019. 7.00pm

4.1 Agenda items for next meeting

- i) Membership incentives for young people
- ii) Dates for meetings in 2020