



**Kent Ornithological Society**  
Providing information about Birds and Birdwatching in Kent

## **Executive Committee**

**Minutes** of a Meeting held on Thursday 18 July 2013 at 7:00pm at Brogdale Farm, Brogdale Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8XZ

**Present:** Martin Coath, (Chair), Jack Chantler, Mike Henty, Tony Morris, Geoff Orton, Keith Privett, Chris Roome, Mike Roser, Anthea Skiffington, Stephen Wood and Barry Wright.

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from: John Cantelo, Rob Clements, Norman McCanch, Robin Mace and Brendan Ryan.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2013 were accepted as an accurate record.

### **3. Promotions and Publicity**

Tony Morris reported that he was planning to attend RSPB local members' groups to publicise the activities of KOS and to recruit new members. CR had done the same at the Tonbridge member's group and BR had recently given a talk to the Medway RSPB Group. In passing BR noted that the great majority of members of local RSPB groups appear to be over 40 years of age. TM felt that it was important to concentrate our recruitment drive on younger birders and GO suggested getting in touch with local colleges and universities, particularly those with courses in environmental sciences.

**Action: Brendan Ryan, Tony Morris**

#### **4. Membership**

CR presented his membership report. He told the committee that the current membership stood at 682 of whom 643 are fully paid-up, 30 are currently non-payers and 9 continue to pay at the old rate.

In the twelve month period to 18 July 2013 41 new members had joined, compared to 55 in the same period last year. Total membership had fallen slightly (by 8) since last year and CR noted that there had been some difficulties with the renewal of standing orders. He reported that the KOS Website continues to provide a steady flow of membership enquiries.

Email addresses are known for 431 members and Chris asked that committee members set a good example by keeping him up-to-date of any changes.

**Action: Chris Roome**

#### **5. Kent Bird Report**

KP told the committee that the 2011 *KBR* had gone to the printers and that he had just received the proofs. He was congratulated by the committee for the great progress achieved towards the timely publication of the *Report*. Data for the 2012 *Report* is about two months delayed by the recent sad death of Don Petrie, and Keith could not at this stage give a target date for the next issue.

It was suggested that the editorial and recording functions of the E&R Committee could be split, but the general feeling was this would require its members to attend too many additional meetings, although there was no reason why special editorial meetings with limited attendance should not take place as required.

KP raised the unsolved problem of standardisation of the names used to denote the very large number of recording locations. The use of multiple synonyms such as 'Dungeness', 'Dungeness RSPB', 'ARC Pits' etc etc, makes it difficult to avoid duplication of records as well as increasing the time needed to analyse occurrences. It was agreed that this issue would need to be addressed by a future Webmaster.

**Action: Keith Privett**

#### **6. New Birds of Kent**

There was nothing to report.

**Action: Martin Coath**

#### **7. Kent Breeding Bird Atlas 2008 – 11**

In the absence of RC this item was deferred to the next meeting.

**Action: Rob Clements**

## **8. KOS News**

Norman McCanch will take over as editor in the summer, and detailed discussion was therefore deferred to the next meeting. However, several issues were raised, including the CR's suggestion that *KBR* should be made freely available on line to non-members.

**Action: Norman McCanch**

## **9. Treasurer's Report**

Mike Henty reported as follows:

As of 1<sup>st</sup> July the Society's funds were:

Current account £ 6,579

Deposit account £ 2,470

PayPal account £ 209

So far this year 86 members have paid subs via PayPal and I have transferred £950 to our current account, plus a further £200 transfer this month.

CAF 90 Day account £16,103,  
Barclays Bond £20,000 and  
Cash £85.

The substantial amount on current account is held to cover the cost of the 2011 KBR (in February we paid £4,305 for the 2010 KBR) and the excess of expenses over income that always occurs in the second half of the year.

**Action: Mike Henty**

## **10. Indoor Meetings**

AS gave details of projected meetings beginning in October 2013 through to March 2014. There was a general discussion on the content and format of the meetings and the committee thanked Anthea for her good work.

**Action: Anthea Skiffington**

## **11. Outdoor Meetings**

MR reported that the Kent Wildlife Conference 2013 will be hosted by the Kent Field Club on Saturday 19 October at the University of Kent at Canterbury, and he hoped that many KOS members would be able to attend. Rob Clements will be contributing a talk on 'Hobbies in Kent'.

The outdoor meeting programme continues to attract around a dozen or more attendees for each outing, although the 'Medway Pelagic' has had to be cancelled this year for lack of interest.

**Action: Mike Roser**

## **12. Website and Forum**

The Chairman announced the sad death of Don Petrie after a short illness and expressed the sympathy of KOS members to Don's family and friends.

A wide discussion of the current and future situation of the Website and Forum took place, although few conclusions could be reached. It was agreed that the appointment of a replacement for Don as Webmaster was a very high priority, but it was also recognised that there were considerable difficulties ahead.

BW agreed to contact Chris Abram to see if a specification could be devised for the Website.

**Action: Martin Coath, Barry Wright, Robin Mace**

## **13. Editorial and Records Sub-Committee**

BW reported that Mike Gould had kindly agreed to join the editorial board where his expert knowledge of photographic matters would be very helpful.

BW has written to the Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre to clarify the arrangements which apply to the supply of KOS records.

**Action: Barry Wright**

## **14. Conservation and Surveys Sub-Committee**

Item deferred in the absence of RC.

**Action: Rob Clements**

## **15. Any Other Business**

It was agreed that a donation of £50.00 should be made to the Brogdale Trust in recognition of their kindness in allowing KOS the use its meeting room.

**Action: Mike Roser**

## **16. Date and Time of the Next Meeting:**

**The Next Meeting of the Executive Committee** will be on Thursday 17 October 2013 at 7.00pm at Brogdale Farm, Brogdale Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8XZ.