



Kent Ornithological Society
Providing information about Birds and Birdwatching in Kent

Executive Committee

**Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 26 November 2015 at 7:00pm
At West Faversham Community Centre, Bysing Wood Road, Faversham, Kent
ME13 7RH**

Present: Martin Coath, (Chair), Jack Chantler, Mike Henty, Andy Lawson, Norman McCanch, Tony Morris, Keith Privett, Chris Roome, Brendan Ryan and Stephen Wood.

Apologies for absence were received from: Ken Lodge, Robin Mace, Ray O'Reilly, Geoff Orton, Anthea Skiffington, and Barry Wright.

1. Publicity

BR reported that KOS now has 531 followers on Twitter and 239 have joined the KOS Facebook page. The KOS website is well-used and receives 3 or 4 emails each week. The Kent list has yet to be transferred to the new website, but this will be addressed shortly. An on-line survey of members' views of the website is being planned.

Feedback had been received on the display materials used at recent *Atlas* promotions had not been favourable, the text and graphics being considered amateurish. BR suggested that we should in future commission some professional graphic design, and the Committee approved this plan.

Action: Brendan Ryan

CR reported that it was now possible to use PayPal to join the Society and to purchase copies of the *Atlas*. He requested that a tab be included to enable members to renew their subscriptions in the same way, and MH agreed to look into this.

Action: Mike Henty

2. Membership

CR reported that total membership stood at 681, an increase of around 50 since last reported. Much interest had been created by publication of the *Atlas*, with 51 new members in 2015 compared 32 in 2014.

3. Kent Bird Report

KP described progress on *KBR 2014*. Most of the species accounts had now been provided by authors, as had the Ringing Report. AL was very pleased with the quality of this year's photographs, and expected no difficulty in selecting 56 to be included. MC commented on the excellent photos of commoner species taken by Warren Baker. BR repeated his opinion that each photograph should bear a caption referencing it to the text, and that pictorial quality alone was not sufficient to justify inclusion.

AL noted that an additional five or six member had volunteered to write species accounts this year, and each was being assigned to shadow an existing writer, with a view to taking over when required.

An article had been commissioned on *the Birds of NorthKent* by Alan Johnson for inclusion in *KBR 2014*.

Action: Keith Privett, Andy Lawson

4. Kent Breeding Bird Atlas

CR told the Committee that approximately 250 copies had been sold directly to members, and another 50 to 100 by other routes, including NHBS. A review is to appear in *Ibis*.

MH said that about £5,000 worth of sales had so far been achieved, compared to production costs of £11,770 – a shortfall of £6,770. However, sales continue, and it was noted that only five months had elapsed since first publication.

Plans for a second *Atlas* to cover wintering, migrant and vagrant species were discussed and CR agreed to convene a group similar to that for the *KBBA* to manage the process. SW said that broadly the same group of authors would be involved, although with additions to cover rarities.

It was agreed that the management group should report back to the EC for final approval.

Action: Chris Roome, Stephen Wood, Mike Henty

5. KOS News

NM reported that he had sufficient copy for the next issue of *KOS News*, and indeed had had to hold some back to make room for other items. He expects to phase out the remaining few printed copies in about fifteen months' time. He is also considering increasing the frequency of publication to bi-monthly from the present quarterly.

The issue of advertising was discussed, there recently having been an approach from a holiday provider in Scotland, who in return offered a discounted rate for KOS members, It was agreed that the decision should be that of the Editor.

Lastly, NM briefly discussed a proposal to build an on-line archive of pdf versions of *KOSN*, and this was strongly supported by the Committee.

Action: Norman McCanch

6. Treasurer's Report

MH told the Committee that costs for *KBR 2013* had been £5,403, some £300 below budget. Other items of expenditure not yet quantified included consultancy costs for the website upgrade, and storage of *KBBA*.

He remained confident that there would be a surplus during both the present and next financial years, and he did not foresee any need to increase the subscription rate, which would remain at £12 p.a.

Action: Mike Henty

7. Indoor Meetings

In the absence of AntheaSkiffington, discussion of this item was deferred.

Action: AntheaSkiffington

8. Outdoor Meetings

In the absence of Ray O'Reilly, discussion of this item was deferred.

Action: Ray O'Reilly

9. Editorial & Records Sub-Committee

In the absence of Barry Wright, discussion of this item was deferred.

Action: Barry Wright

10. Conservation & Surveys Sub-Committee

NM reported that Owen Sweeney had unfortunately had to step down from the Sub-Committee for personal reasons. Members expressed their gratitude for Owen's long-standing commitment to KOS and its work over many years, and wished him well for the future. Owen's place has been taken by Simon Ginnaw, who is a warden at Riverside Country Park.

Several issues were discussed. The proposal for a lorry park at Stanford to replace Operation Stack was noted. The WeBS counts for Stodmarsh have apparently not been made for a year, and BR said that he hoped to be able to cover Collard's Lake after his retirement. A request had been received from Paul Tinsley-Marshall for Breeding Bird Survey data for the 'Medway Smile' area, and he had been advised to consult the BTO.

Action: Norman McCanch

11. Time and date of next meeting

Wednesday 23 March at 7.00pm at West Faversham Community Centre