



Kent Ornithological Society
Providing information about Birds and Birdwatching in Kent

Executive Committee

Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 29 September 2011 at 6:30pm at Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way, Lenham, Maidstone, ME17 2QT

Present: Martin Coath (Chair), John Cantelo, Mike Henty, Marcus Lawson, Chris Roome, and Stephen Wood.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Chris Abrams, Gordon Allison, Robin Mace Mike Roser, Brendan Ryan and Barry Wright.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2011 were accepted as an accurate record.

3. Publicity and Membership

MH reminded the meeting that if monies are to be committed in the next financial year for publicity, then he would need to have details very soon in order to plan the budget. He agreed to contact BR to discuss this.

Action: Mike Henty, Brendan Ryan

JC announced that he had been invited to give a ten-minute talk on the work of KOS to a symposium at the Durrell Institute of Conservation & Ecology, University of Kent. Unfortunately the meeting is to take place on 3 October and he is unable to attend at such short notice. He has volunteered to give the talk at the next symposium in 2012.

Action: John Cantelo

CR presented a short report. We have a total of 681 members, 634 of whom are fully paid-up, an increase of 12 since June.

Thirty-eight persons remain members but have not yet paid their subscriptions for the current year, and another nine have not updated their standing orders to reflect the current subscription rate. This is two fewer than in June.

Since April 2010, sixty-six new members have joined, of whom seven (11 per cent) have lapsed after the first year.

Membership appears to hover around the 680 mark, and more remains to be done to attract new members. Leaflets have been circulated and the website continues to yield new recruits.

Action: Chris Roome

4. *Kent Bird Report*

An advert for a new editor will appear in the next issue of *KOS News*.

5. *New Birds of Kent*

MC is awaiting a reply to several points he has raised with Andrew Henderson.

Action: Martin Coath

ML reported that the C&S Committee had discussed whether TTVs should continue during the fifth year of *Atlas* work in Kent, the consensus being that they should. SW doubted if sufficient data would be collected to allow analysis of abundance at the county level and ML agreed to clarify this.

Action: Marcus Lawson

6. *KOS News*

JC has written an editorial in the next issue which strongly encourages more contributions of ordinary members and pointed out that a high proportion of content is contributed by committee members.

ML thought that articles on aspects of bird identification would be popular, but that a significant obstacle would be the inability – for reasons of cost – to include colour photographs and illustrations.

7. Treasurer's Report

MH presented his Accounts and Report for 2011 (Attachments A and B) and led a general discussion. He stated his opinion that the current subscription rate of £12 per year is no longer sufficient to keep up with expenditure. Three options were available:

- Increase the subscription rate
- Reduce expenditure
- Use reserves to delay an increase in subscription rates

The only realistic way of reducing expenditure would be to cease paper publication of *KOS News* or to reduce the length and quality of the *KBR* and the members present agreed that neither measure would be acceptable.

It was also generally felt that to draw substantially on reserves would be contrary to the Society's charitable objectives and could, in any case only delay and not prevent an increase in subscription rates.

The Executive Committee therefore decided to recommend to the 2012 Annual General Meeting that subscription rates be increased as follows:

Ordinary member (including all members of a single household)	£16.00
Junior member (under 19)	£9.00
Overseas member	£22.00

Action: Mike Henty

8. Indoor Meetings

ML noted that Martin Garner's talk has had to be postponed to 9 February 2012. Marcus himself will be presenting his talk 'Around the World in 80 Birds' on 10 November instead.

9. Outdoor Meetings

Discussion postponed in view of the absence of MR.

10. Website and Forum

Discussion postponed.

11. Editorial and Records Sub-Committee

Discussion was postponed in the absence of BW.

12. Conservation and Surveys Sub-Committee

Discussion was postponed in the absence of GA.

13. Any other business

None

14. Date of next meeting

Thursday 26 January at 7.00pm. Please note later start. Venue TBA.

Attachment A

Kent Ornithological Society

Charity No. 212489

Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2011

Budget

2010	<u>Statement of Financial Activities</u>	2011 Forecast	2012	2013
Income				
7,636	Subscriptions, net of PayPal fees (£24, 2009 £18)	7,600	7,500	7,400
873	Income tax recovered under Gift Aid	892	770	750
204	Donations	941	10	10
629	Interest	626	620	620
295	Meetings	300	300	300
232	Sales of Kent Bird Reports	183	40	40
60	Sales of DVDs	-	-	-
80	Advertisements	80	-	-
10,009		10,622	9,240	9,120
Expenditure				
	Estimated cost of KBRs			
	4,500			
3,388	Less: Overprovision for KBR for 2007	379		
		4,879	4,000	4,500
4,640	Other Printing, Postage, Stationery, etc.	4,200	4,450	4,700
445	Meetings	700	750	800
110	Insurance	110	120	130
1,158	Website & IT Expenses	700	750	800
-	Donations	200	100	100
606	Sundry Purchases	175	-	-
495	Depreciation of Computer & Equipment	210	160	120
10,842		11,174	10,330	11,150
(833)	Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(552)	(1,090)	(2,030)
32,214	Total Reserves brought forward	31,381	30,829	29,739
31,381	Total Reserves carried forward	30,829	29,739	27,709

2010	<u>Balance Sheet</u>	2011	2012	2013
Assets				
490	Tangible Fixed Assets:	[Note (b)]	280	120
				-
Current Assets:				
31,761	Barclays Bond	32,383	33,007	33,630
392	Cash at Bank - Current A/c	1,454	1,992	1,359
131	Cash at Bank - PayPal A/c	100	100	100
6,962	Cash at Bank - Deposit A/c	5,965	3,900	2,900

18	Cash in Hand	20	39,922	20	20
256	Debtors & Prepayments		256	200	200
<u>40,010</u>			<u>40,458</u>	<u>39,339</u>	<u>38,209</u>
	Liabilities				
	Current Liabilities:				
	Provision for KBRs	8,000		8,000	9,000
8,629	Other Creditors	<u>1,629</u>	9,629	1,600	1,500
<u>31,381</u>	Net Assets		<u>30,829</u>	<u>29,739</u>	<u>27,709</u>
	Reserves				
#####	Birds of Kent Fund		17,190	17,520	17,850
#####	General Fund		<u>13,639</u>	<u>12,219</u>	<u>9,859</u>
<u>31,381</u>			<u>30,829</u>	<u>29,739</u>	<u>27,709</u>
			0	0	0

Attachment B

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - 29th SEPTEMBER 2011

TREASURER'S REPORT

2011 Forecast & Estimates for next two years

The enclosed schedule sets out the forecast accounts for 2011 together with estimated figures for 2012 and 2013. They are based on conservative assumptions assuming there is no expenditure incurred other than on "status quo" items. The key assumptions are as follows:

There is a modest decline in Subscriptions by "natural wastage"

Interest rates remain at the current low level.

There is no capital expenditure in these years

There is no exceptional IT expenditure

There is no expenditure on "Publicity" (e.g. new display boards) included in these numbers

Publication of KBRs is on target by the end of 2012

The accumulation of the Birds of Kent Fund is still required

At the end of 2013 the General Fund would be £9,859, equivalent to 88% of expenditure in 2013. This is the first time since 2006 that this ratio has fallen below 100%.

Subscriptions

To increase the subscription rate for 2013 (or at any date after April 2012) it would be necessary to obtain approval at the AGM held in April 2012. Members would need to be advised of this as an AGM agenda item in the January 2012 newsletter. A decision is required **now**.

On the forecasts I have prepared I believe we should seek an increase in the subscription rate from the current £12. We can also increase the subscription for members living outside the UK to cover the ever increasing postage costs. We also currently operate a concessionary reduced rate for members over 65 (on application to the Treasurer), which few of our senior citizen members have applied for, and this I believe should be abandoned. We should perhaps retain a reduced rate for Under 18's.

Cost of publications

Based on the cost of printing and postage of the last KBR and the last newsletter, I have estimated the cost per member as follows:

KBR	£5.10
Newsletter – 4 x £1.40	£5.60
Total cost	£10.70

Gift Aid

We have received £892 as income tax refund under Gift Aid in respect of the 2010-11 tax year, £19 up on 2010. This payment includes £101 Transitional Relief that compensates for the reduction in the tax rate from 22% to 20%; this relief is not available for future years

Financial Balances

As at 23rd September the available funds are:

Current account £2,337

Deposit account £6,964

PayPal account £62 (So far this year 80 members have paid subs via PayPal and I have transferred £1,000 to our current account. The fees paid amount to £32, less than the equivalent of three subscriptions), and

Cash £27

The Barclays Bond stands at £31,138 (interest payable November 2011).

The above current account figure is calculated after allowing for the payment of all known expenses incurred to date. The as-yet-undetermined amount payable for the summer newsletter will have to be deducted.