



Kent Ornithological Society
Providing information about Birds and Birdwatching in Kent

Executive Committee

Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 6 April 2011 at 6:00pm at Brogdale Farm, Brogdale Road, Faversham, ME13 8XZ

Present: Martin Coath (Chair), Gordon Allison, John Cantelo, Jack Chantler, Mike Henty, Marcus Lawson, Chris Roome, Mike Roser,, Brendan Ryan, Stephen Wood and Barry Wright.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed members and thanked The Brogdale Trust for its kindness in providing the facilities for the meeting, and Mike Roser for making the arrangements.

Apologies for absence were received from: Chris Abrams and Robin Mace.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2011 were accepted as an accurate record with the following amendment:

Item 10 Editorial and Records Committee. BW advised the committee that a vacancy would arise in the KOS Rarity Panel (*not the BBRC*) this year.

3. Annual General Meeting

MC announced that Rob Clements would be speaking on 'The Hobby in Britain' after the formal proceedings of the AGM.

The nomination and seconding of officers would take place at the AGM

Action: Martin Coath

4. Publicity and Membership

BR circulated his Membership Survey (Attachment A) which was then discussed. It was agreed that BR would make a presentation at the Annual General Meeting.

Action: Brendan Ryan

CR presented his membership report (Attachment B). So far this year 41 new members have joined, mostly via the website. It was agreed that this was very encouraging, although the total membership is predicted to fall over the next few years because of its age distribution. CR also noted that 13 members have not yet updated standing orders to their banks and are still paying at the old rate of £9. He asked EC members to exert what influence they could to ensure that all members' subscriptions are up-to-date.

Action: Chris Roome, all members

5. Kent Bird Report

RM had sent an email explaining that although there had been delays with the 2009 issue in some parts of the Systematic List, he anticipated going to the printers in 2-3 weeks with a distribution late May.

BW reported that he had cross-checked KBR entries with those in *British Birds*, and that Mike Gould had finalised the list of photographs to be included. BR felt it was important that the chosen photographs should illustrate some aspect of the years birding events rather than being included solely for aesthetic merit.

BW noted with approval that the *London Bird Report*, although still further in arrears than the *KBR*, now included a series of yearly round-ups of sightings at important sites and suggested that we consider this for future editions of *KBR*.

Robin Mace has confirmed that he is willing to continue as Editor for the 2010 issue and that he would produce a plan for production in the next few weeks. This was warmly welcomed by all members, although it was agreed that efforts to find a successor should continue.

Action: All members

6. New Birds of Kent

An email had been received from Andrew Henderson. Accounts for 145 of 424 species have been prepared to the stage of a 'good draft'. Andrew is unable to give a realistic timetable for completion of the project, but is of the opinion that it should not be delayed in order to incorporate result from the *Atlas*. MC agreed to confirm with him that all the necessary drafts and supporting documentation is backed-up in the event of accident.

Action: Martin Coath

7. KOS News

John Cantelo reported that the copy for the spring issue had been sent to the printer following its circulation to members of the EC. Future issues will also be circulated before printing, although the summer issue may be slightly delayed due to his being away.

Action: John Cantelo

MC emphasised the importance of including details of the proceedings of the forthcoming AGM in KOS News and SW agreed to prepare a summary while a more complete account would be posted on the Forum.

Action: Stephen Wood

8. Treasurer's Report

MH reported that his draft accounts presented at the last meeting had been approved by the Independent Examiner and would be submitted to the AGM.

Action: Mike Henty

9. Indoor Meetings

ML told the Committee that all Indoor Meetings had been finalised up to the April 2012 Annual General Meeting. The 10 November meeting to be given by Martin Garner is expected to be exceptionally popular and entry will be by ticket only.

MH proposed that the standard contribution towards indoor meetings should rise to £4.00 per person, and this was agreed.

Action: Marcus Lawson

10. Outdoor Meetings

MR reported that the field trip programme had made a useful contribution to *Atlas* fieldwork, despite the setback of very poor weather before Christmas. Further *Atlas* work will take place during the summer, the location to be determined by the priorities identified by Tim Hodge and Marcus Lawson.

The first outing of the new year, led by Andy Lawson was a great success and it is planned to repeat it next winter. Other outings were to Sheppey led by Derek Faulkner and Stodmarsh with John Cantelo – this trip being notable for the sighting of no less than fourteen Bitterns flying to roost.

Future trips include the 'Medway Pelagic' in May and to Sampire Hoe and Castle Coote. John and Gill Brooks will be following up last year's popular indoor meeting with a field trip to study dragonflies at Sevenoaks Wildfowl Reserve.

Action: Mike Roser

11. Website and Forum

MC informed the Committee that Chris Abrams had sent him a report on website, forum and database issues which he will include in his address at the AGM. It was noted that website had been endorsed by the Membership Survey as one of the most popular features of KOS.

12. Editorial and Records Sub-Committee

BW noted that some old records were being reviewed, including those for Dipper and a Tawny Eagle found dead at Appledore in the April 1968!

Action: Barry Wright

13. Conservation and Surveys Sub-Committee

GA announced that Geoff Orton had replaced Sally Hunter as BTO Representative for Kent and would be joining the C&S Committee. Marcus Lawson and Murray Orchard had also agreed to join, although a vacancy remains for a Natural England nominee.

Action: Gordon Allison

14. Any other business

It was agreed that at the next meeting there should be discussion of the possibility of holding a conference during 2012.

Action: Stephen Wood

15. Date of next meeting

6.30pm Thursday 30 June at Brogdale Farm.

Attachment A

- **Membership Survey**
- **Carried out Sept-Nov 2010**
- **247 Returns**
- **36% of membership**

- 84% male
- 16% female
- 80% use internet
- 7% don't use internet

Other interests

- Photography (38%)
- Gardening (43%)
- Butterflies (36%)
- Moths (16%)
- Dragonflies (25%)

Birdwatching habits

- 53% bird alone
- 61% keep records
- 10% twitchers
- 8% ringers
- 16% involved in surveys

What members liked

- Newsletter
- Website
- KBR

What members didn't like

- Lateness of KBR

- Out of date sightings pages
- Forum
- Elitist
- Meetings too far away

What's in a name?

- Should we change our name
 - Yes 3%
 - No 82%

Aims and Objectives

- Record and monitor bird populations
- Produce KBR
- Support others to protect habitats

What next?

- Executive- report and action plan
- Report on website
- Summary in newsletter

Attachment B

Kent Ornithological Society Executive Committee Meeting – 6th April 2011

Membership Secretary's report

- The membership database is working well and is installed on a new laptop. As of January 20th 2011:-
- We currently have 39 non paying members.
- We have 644 fully paid up ordinary members.
- We have a further 13 paid up members who are debtors i.e. still pay £9 on a standing order.
- Current membership is therefore 696. [Current mailing list] A Small increase since we last met.
- There are 468 *lapsed* members on the data base, 118 in the *lapsed historic* category, and 138 in the *ceased* category.
- Since April 2010 30 new members have joined the society.
- We have email addresses for 550 members. (Therefore 146 whom we would have to contact via snailmail.)
- Seven members have addresses abroad on the data base. Three members in Canada, one in each of Spain, France, Italy and Hong Kong.
- So membership is slightly increasing. We need to do more. Leaflets. Conference? Presence at Birdfairs etc. Asking birders and others we meet on our travels?

Chris Roome