

5.3 Planning Applications

Caroline Dibden (CPRE Hampshire) has provided some information on where Boroughs are up to with plans. It is important to get involved before planning starts.

AL – it may be necessary to pay someone to raise objections.

AL thanked BP for his help with monitoring planning applications.
BP happy to continue with this.

6. Treasurer's Report (AM)

6.1 AM reported that the Independent examination of the 2021 accounts had been signed off by Joy Aubin and that the accounts were on the website. The surplus for the year was just over £17,000, members subscriptions had increased significantly and grants paid out were £5,348, none paid last year due to pandemic. Cost of data sales / surveys had increased due to the purchase of two thermal imagers. The accounts were approved by the Management Committee.

DB enquired about the signing of the accounts by trustees and the submission of the Annual Return.

Action: DB to complete the Annual Return and submit this and the accounts.

6.2 Outlook for 2022 – AM summarised the receipts and payments accounts for the month of January 2022. Members subscriptions were £15,552, income tax refunds on Members subscriptions £4,152 and Rare Birds of Hampshire book sales were £3,259. No grants paid out as yet. The deposit account has £46,000 in it. AM recommended moving this to a higher interest paying account. The Hampshire Trust bonds have now been moved into new bonds with Hampshire Trust Bank.

Action: AM

The outlook for 2022 is good. There are still some grants to be paid out – Hayling Island Ring Plover project, Redshank in the Avon Valley and the Selborne Landscape Partnership.

Action: MW to contact GWCT to request that the grants are claimed.

6.3 KFB raised the matter of insurance for the two thermal imagers and the drone. AM had researched and had obtained a quote of £46 plus IPT. AM will get one more quote, however, the existing quote looks good for £2,000 worth of equipment.

Action: AM

6.4 AM suggested that members be made aware of the requirement to look after the equipment when in their possession. KFB agreed to write a one page agreement for members when they are using the equipment.

Action: KFB

KFB then referred to the email from AL earlier which suggested that there are other pieces of equipment that we could buy (e.g. another thermal imager, binoculars, telescope etc).

KFB went on to say that this subject should be added to the agenda for the next meeting so that our equipment requirements could be discussed in detail and decisions made as to what to purchase.

Action: DB to add to agenda for next meeting.

AL added that we have a high level of reserves and even with grant expenditure in 2022, the reserves were likely to increase and that the impression outside of HOS could be that we are holding too much in reserves. KFB suggested that the Management Committee think of ideas for one-off big spends.

JC added that the WWT were seeking funding for surveys.

Action: DB to add to agenda for next meeting.

6.5 AM went through the budget for 2022. The budget is straightforward and based upon 2021. The budgeted surplus is £3,150. The main budget assumptions are that the Members' Day goes ahead (costs incurred last year), the Hampshire Rare Birds book is self financing and that the grants are paid out.

7. Member' Day / AGM 2022 (KFB / BP)

7.1 KFB ran through the speakers for the Members' Day. Chris Packham will chair the AGM and the Members' Day unless a work engagement comes up.

Speakers:

- Korine Bishop – Wildlife Crime
- Mark Thomas – 'Catching the Killers' followed by a discussion with Chris Packham

James Aldred is unable to attend so KFB and JB have arranged for 12 young HOS young members who they have worked with, to each speak for 2-3 minutes on a month of the year probably starting with the older ones first. This will include photographs by young members. Chris Packham will moderate.

JB added that the order will alternate boy/girl. There are 2 very knowledgeable very young members (6 years old) Rufus and Costa who will do the last 2 months. This will be an excellent showcase for young members.

KFB added that this presentation will need quite a lot of rehearsing.

Action: KFB / JB

There will be no Memorial Lecture this year which is not surprising given the uncertainty over the event this year.

7.2 BP outlined the logistics for the day. Now expected to be a live event and dialogue is ongoing with St Swithun's School. BP meeting with them later in February. Maximum of 250-260 attendees can be accommodated taking into account social distancing / seating plans. BP and NW to meet to go through the registration process to coincide with Kingfisher coming out. An email will also be sent out with a link to registration on the website.

Action: NW

KFB and BP have made the decision that tea and coffee will not be provided, members will be encouraged to bring their own. This is a Covid measure and will be a one- off this year.

BP planning for there to be break-out areas for members to socialise and will discuss this with St Swithun's.

BP hoping for 7-8 exhibitors (to be confirmed) in the hall. Flow of members into the hall to be managed, may use more than one hall.

BP will be mobilising the membership sub-committee in the next few days to organise support on the day for guiding members through the event, parking etc. BP will circulate a memorandum on this in the next week or two.

Action: BP

Plan B (virtual event) not expected to be required.

JC asked about external caterers providing coffee outside. KFB replied this was unlikely to be allowed by St Swithun's and that this could be very time consuming unless it was basic tea and coffee.

BP will raise with St Swithun's.

Action: BP

JB asked whether attendees would be required to wear masks. It was agreed that the wearing of masks would be encouraged and that masks would be provided for attendees who do not bring their own. Bottles of water will also be provided at reception.

NW requested assistance with the HOS sales stall. ACL volunteered to assist NW.

Action: NW / ACL

JE asked about seating. BP replied that after registration, attendees would be allocated seats. Hand sanitiser will be available.

7.3 Membership subscriptions (KS)

KS - £420 of cheques to pay in.

203 new members in 2021.

So far this year (January) 26 new members plus 1 in February.

308 members have still not paid their 2022 subscriptions and 41 members still paying £12.

KS will chase for the additional amount.

Action: KS

KS volunteered to look after registration for the Members' Day.

KFB thanked KS for her hard work.

7.4 Young Member Activity (JB)

JB – HOS have had quite a few new young members. JB has emailed parents reminding them that they can take out family membership.

On 31 January, Chris Packham gave an on-line talk to young members. Chris was joined by Megan. The young members asked lots of questions. It was a very successful event.

Two more ringing events planned, 12 March at Romsey and 19 March at Blashford.

JB thanked KS for arranging the young memberships through The Cameron Bespolka Trust.

7.5 KFB asked JB about encouraging more women to get involved with HOS.

JB – in the next Kingfisher there will be an article by CR aimed at the female membership.

A WhatsApp group will be set up that JB will moderate, the aim is to facilitate friendships between female members and encourage attending HOS events together.

JB's email address is in the Kingfisher article and JB will liaise with KS to check membership when emails received. KS has noticed an increase in female membership.

Action: JB

7.6 New Members events

KFB suggested one or two more events in the Spring. KFB will email Management Committee members to see who can attend as leaders or helpers. Keyhaven events were very good and the hotel is a good meeting place.

Action: KFB

7.7 Walks Agenda (ACL)

ACL reported that this was going very well. The walks are going onto the website as soon as planned.

ACL thanked KS and John Shillitoe and the walk leaders for all their hard work.

7.8 Talks (BP)

100 attendees for the recent talk chaired by KFB. Planning 1 or 2 talks in February and 2 more in March. Decision to be made as to whether to continue in April onwards.

Action: BP

7.9 Kingfisher (CR)

The next edition will not have many changes from previous issues. CR thanked BP for his help with the handover. Next edition will be out on 14 February. The end section is called Photo Finish and will showcase photographs by members.

CR would like feedback and ideas for the future. CR looking at ways to use people to tell their stories (e.g. Korine Bishop)

8. Scientific Sub-Committee (MW)

8.1 Grants for 2022 – emails to go out in March / April. £8,000 budgeted for. This can be revisited when the grant applications have been received.

8.2 Fieldworkers' Meeting – 26 February 2022

Will be at Littleton Village Hall. Speakers have been organised. 64 attendees signed up (some duplications with speakers / helpers). So about there with capacity.

JB and NW have agreed to help out with teas/coffees (and cakes!). Volunteers for helping with setting up beforehand would be welcomed. Same Covid precautions as for AGM. Email by NW before day will set out the agenda / precautions and also recommend bringing water and a packed lunch.

JC volunteered to help on the door.
Volunteers to arrive at 9.00am.

Attendees can volunteer for surveys on the day. MW will prepare forms for volunteers to sign up, MC members asked to encourage attendees to sign up and supervise the forms.

Covid precautions – depending on the weather, attendees to be encouraged to eat lunch and mingle outside. Doors and windows will be kept open.

8.3 Survey and Meeting Plans – 2022

Three main surveys:

1. Sand Martin – repeat of 2021 survey which was inconclusive.
Well covered in terms of volunteers.
2. Breeding Ringed Plover – still looking for volunteers.
3. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Two parts, New Forest (Rob Clements) and outside New Forest (Ken Smith).

New Forest pretty much covered, however outside New Forest only has 10-12 volunteers so far with 85 squares planned to be covered. Ken Smith is concerned about volunteer take up and has approached KFB and MW about buying software (Kent Ornithological Society) at a cost of £600. If purchased, members will be able to sign up to volunteer for a square(s) on the HOS website.

KFB – Ken Smith did not take up the suggestion of a targeted approach of using KFB contacts living in the vicinity of known LSW sites and has now requested that the software be purchased. There is also an additional cost of £240 per survey.

MW – The software is expensive and there are also concerns over the quality of the data.

Andy Page, Rob Clements and ACo asked for their views. Andy and ACo were against the purchase (quality of data and limited timeframe to get up and running).

Rob Clements supportive but more for future surveys rather than LSW.

After discussion it was agreed that the software would not be purchased for the LSW survey.
MW to speak to Ken Smith (possibly postpone to next year).

Action: MW

8.4 Hampshire Bird Report – 2021 (MLC)

All on track so far. There are more than enough papers already and some may be held back for next year. First drafts expected by the end of March after which the database records will be sent out to the writers.

Ringling reports as for previous years subject to BTO providing drafts in time.

KFB congratulated MLC on the 2020 Bird Report. Lee Evans had commented that it was probably the best in the country.

9. Succession Planning

- 9.1 KFB – two new trustees being put forward for election at the AGM, Helen Schneider and Tony Sztypuljak. Helen works for Flora and Fauna International. Tony worked for IBM as a project manager, now retired. Dave Rumble may be interested in future.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 Hampshire Rare Birds (KFB)

140 orders so far which is disappointing. Pre-publication offer open until the end of February,.

Print run may have to be reduced to 500, with the cost of production being c.£10,000 a further 160 copies will need to be sold to break even, so it may not be until 2023 that this is achieved.

50 copies given away to contributors.

May be a project for Tony Sztypuljak (marketing to bookshops etc).

Will get further publicity when it has been published (Nationals etc).

10.2 Retiring Trustees

KFB and the other committee members thanked Julianne and Tom for their 3 years service on the committee.

Next meeting

– subsequent to this meeting arranged for 7.30pm at Littleton Village Hall on Tuesday 10 May 2022