

# Hampshire Ornithological Society

Minutes of a meeting of the Management Committee held on 8 November 2022 at 7:30pm via Zoom.

<b>1. Present:</b>	<b>Initials:</b>	<b>Present:</b>	<b>Initials:</b>
Keith Betton (Chair)	KFB	Barry Page	BP
Andy Mitchelmore (Treasurer)	AM	Kay Shillitoe	KS
David Brookes (Secretary)	DB	Helen Schneider	HS
Annette Clayson	ACL	Janice Beck	JB
Mike Chalmers	MLC		
Nicola Whitmarsh	NW		
Marcus Ward	MW		

## **2. Apologies:**

Andy Lester	AL
Andrew Colenutt	ACo
Carol Rawlings	CR
Jayne Chapman	JC

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KFB reported that Tony Sztypuljak had resigned due to other commitments.

## **3. Minutes of previous meeting (10 May 2022) – Approved**

### **4. Matters arising**

AM confirmed that the insurance cover has now been put in place for the Rare Birds of Hampshire book and reported that further to Chris Packham's suggestion, that HOS use an ethical bank, two saving accounts have been set up with Charity Bank.

CR reported that the Kingfisher print/design review was outstanding.

BP reported that the intention was to relaunch the talks but this has not yet been progressed.

MW reported that the Redshank grant had now been claimed (paid on 9 May)

KFB made an update on the research into ethnic groups within HOS which is proving to be a lot more difficult than expected and has been put aside for now.

### **5. Treasurer's Report (AM)**

c.£2,000 should be expected in November/December for subscriptions, meaning the total for 2022 should be in line with 2021.

Atlases all now sold. Selling DVD versions to be considered (Action: KFB/NW)

Kingfisher costs have increased significantly compared to 2021, it is unclear why, CR to provide an explanation (Action: CR)

Cash funds as at 5 November we are £106,274, £29,000 maturing shortly will be moved to a Charity Bank 100 day notice account (Action: AM)

### **6. Members' Day / AGM 2023 (KFB/BP)**

KFB – To be held at St Swithun's School on 1 April. Earlier start planned opening at 0930

BP – So far 18 have confirmed Exhibitors. Second hall within St Swithun's to be taken to accommodate.

2 Booksellers (in addition to HOS)

New Forest Bird Food

2 Tour operators (paying £150 each)

Wide range of charitable and commercial exhibitors paying a nominal fee or donating a raffle prize.

Additional space planned for young members photograph exhibition. HS suggested that the exhibition be extended to art as well (Action: BP).

Other possible exhibitors to be approached (eg Opticron)

BP - Members to be encouraged to bring their own food and drink. Ongoing discussion with St Swithun's about food/drink vendors (through St Swithun's) (Action BP)

Car Parking – will probably need more space than last year (Action: BP)

Signage/ Directions will be improved (Action BP)

Raffle prizes will be better and there will be an auction (Action BP)

Leaflet to go out in next Kingfisher and will be published on the website. No booking required.

## **7. Membership**

KS – 116 new members so far in 2022. New members mainly coming in online.

KFB – New member event to take place at Keyhaven on 3 December. KFB and Nigel Matthews will be leaders and HS, JB and NW will attend.

So far 110 new members have been hosted at these events.

JB – Young members activity

Numbers increasing, lots of enthusiastic young members.

Ringing events are very popular.

An event was planned at Blashford but was cancelled, moved to Titchfield but cancelled again due to weather.

Photos/Art being encouraged for Members' Day.

Zac Welling photograph nominated for the Countryfile calendar and Izzy Fry to appear on Countryfile as a nominee for Young Naturalist of the year.

Ladybird continues to grow. Welly walks are being organised.

Di Warner has taken over outings.

KFB doing a bird song event on 25 February 2023 (for all members, 88 booked)

BP reported that there were no membership sub-committee meetings meeting taking place and it was agreed by the Management Committee that, as all were represented at these meetings. the sub – committee would be dissolved.

## **8. Scientific Sub-committee**

Grants

MW - no grant applications received this year. Investment in infrastructure to be considered.

MW to re-issue the Ringed Plover grant (Action: MW)

## Summary of all meetings

Fieldworker's meeting now biennial with the next meeting to be in early 2024.

Survey plans been discussed.

2023 Surveys – Marsh Tit and Dartford Warbler (meeting in December to plan)

Forestry England may invite bids to organise a New Forest Dartford Warbler survey and if so HOS will consider bidding.

2022 Surveys – Ringed Plover, Sand Martin, Little Ringed Plover and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker yet to be finalised.

KFB reported that funding for the Goosander Hide at Blashford had been provided in full by a donor. HOS may be asked for a grant/donation for the Lapwing hide.

## Bird Report

MC – Out earlier than usual this year (late October)

The Ringing report was not ready in time so was not included this year. The report will go on the website and how the report will be communicated in future will be discussed to the next Scientific sub – committee meeting.

2022 Bird Report being planned already. MC is emailing regarding papers to draw up a shortlist.

## 9. Conservation Liaison

KFB in AL's absence.

Planning applications been reviewed. Nothing of note recently.

Engagement with Boroughs – KFB looking at Havant Borough plan – All looks ok.

Tipner – Portsmouth CC going back to the drawing board. RSPB concerned about loss of inter-tidal area. RSPB will direct HOS.

Jet Ski incident at Keyhaven – Hampshire Police have issued a community protection notice against to the owner of the jet skis.

There is a seminar taking place in Lyndhurst on Bird Awareness Solent, which is funded by house builders. It is fit for purpose? Feedback sought to shape its future. KB to attend.

King's Pond, Alton - Council planning to fill in and create a marsh.

## 10. Strategy

KFB – No need for a third thermal imager.

### Succession

- Martin Pitt has agreed to take over as County Recorder from 2023. KFB will deal with 2022 records.
- Dave Palmer will take over from DB as secretary at the 2023 AGM
- DB will take over as Treasurer from AM at the 2023 AGM

MC members asked to think of possible new trustees (Action: All)

## 11. AOB

KFB: Titchfield Haven café/visitor centre planned closure. Paper petition against closure has 11,000 signatures. If this proceeds buildings will be sold off.

Watercress May - Received a grant to promote chalk streams. KFB doing a talk on 10 November and a walk next Spring. £150 fee will go to HOS.

KS – Consider grant to schools/scout groups etc. Provide bird boxes and cameras. Target urban schools (Action: KS and BP)

**11. Next Meeting**

28 February 2023, 7:30pm at Littleton Memorial Hall. Number of meetings each year to increase to 4 will 2 in person and 2 virtual.

David Brookes  
Secretary