



Minutes of Committee Meeting

in Bar One, Castlebar

at 19.30 hrs on Wednesday

20th July 2022

Present

Barry Murphy (chair)
Graham Cawdell (joint secretary)
Helen Lawson (treasurer)
George Keegan (PRO)
Kieran Flynn
Marie Comerford
Pádraig Keogh
Colm Madden

Apologies

Ruth-Ann Leak (joint secretary)
Nathy Gilligan
Colin Guilfoyle
Jon Freestone
Nuala

Welcome Barry welcomed the committee to our first face to face meeting

Minutes of last meeting on Wednesday 11th 2022 presumed read.

Matters Arising

- Google account and YouTube. Graham apologised that he had not had the opportunity to resolve this with Barry. Kieran asked why the 2 accounts were required. With joint secretaries and their problems accessing different provider accounts meant that we had resolved to continue with both Yahoo and Google.
- Branch flyer. Barry reminded us that we had resolved to go paperless so we discussed why it was deemed useful. Graham said that this would be in pdf format and available to print off by anyone. The revised flyer had not been completed.

Events

- Recent events. Reports compiled by Graham about our 2 outings to Downpatrick Head and Belmullet and the talk about swifts with viewing had been circulated. Graham suggested that a committee member at each function be asked to provide a brief report as soon as possible after that event for our records and inclusion on our social media. The committee agreed.
- Upcoming events. Kilcummin Head to view migrating seabirds was planned for August. This would now be on the weekend of 3rd / 4th September with the day to be decided dependent on the weather. Kieran would look into a visit to Lough Carra in August and the best places to access it.
- Annual calendar of events. The committee discussed this topic again. Barry reminded us that we had concentrated our events in north and west Mayo and we need to consider other areas particularly our turloughs. George requested a river walk to which Colm pointed out that there was a historic survey of the Moy estuary and perhaps we should endeavour to repeat it to assess the changes. Kieran said our bogs have breeding waders in summer which we may be able to safely view. He would speak to

his friends who are surveying those areas. Graham said that he would draw up a calendar with habitats to view at various times of the year then after discussion with Barry we will disseminate it for online discussion amongst the committee. Colm reminded us that we had often had meetings with Sligo and Barry suggested that we also consider events with the Galway branch. Graham asked George how much notice does he need for notifying the local press about our events as many of our attendees had been informed this way. He stated that about 3 weeks was required.

Report from Birdwatch Ireland AGM

Pádraig attended the Zoom AGM on Saturday 2nd July 2022. He wrote this report for the committee: “The chairperson Jim led the meeting. He thanked the interim CEO before introducing the new CEO, Linda Lennon. She said she met staff and was very impressed with the commitment and enthusiasm. Niall Hatch was pleased to inform the meeting that there are 63 items of good news in the Annual Report and he highlighted the Birds Connect project which focused on connecting people and biodiversity through citizen science, outreach and training. It received grant funding from the Community Foundation of Ireland and it ran in conjunction with Men’s Sheds and several other organisations. Niall confirmed that 2022 is the 9th year that red necked phalaropes nested in Mayo. There are several new board members and they in turn introduced themselves. There was a lot of discussion regarding boards and the need for diversity as it is a criterion for being successful for funding and grants. Only one female applied for board membership during the recent drive to appoint new board members. There was a call to campaign to abolish the red/amber list and a good opportunity arose with a “green” minister in office at the moment. It was mentioned about the autumn avian flu. Birdwatch Ireland still have not heard anything from the regulator with regard to their draft report following the regulator’s audit of Birdwatch Ireland.”

Report from Mayo guided tour for American visitors

Graham reported that the branch had been approached by a group of 4 Americans who were visiting Westport in June about joining an outing. As we had no outings planned during their stay, we replied that it may be feasible for them to join a member on a trip. Graham was able to accommodate this request. It was stressed that they were joining as my guests on tour around various Mayo birdwatching sites. Our trip included Letterkeen Forest, Enniscoe, Belleek Woods, Downpatrick Head, Ceide Fields then back to Westport via the shores of Carrowmore Lake, Ballycroy and Mulranny. They gave a donation to our branch of €100.

Quorum for our meetings

Graham asked if we had a quorum for meetings. Helen stated that often it had been just herself and Ruth. After much discussion our guide line should be half the total committee members minus one and at least 2 should be officers (*chairperson, secretary, treasurer and public relations officer*).

Late Notices

Helen confirmed that she had emailed the committee earlier in the day regrettably tendering her resignation from the committee but that the enthusiasm of this meeting had left her in a quandary. We discussed the options and it was agreed that Pádraig would take on the responsibility of the treasurer whilst Kieran and Barry would assist her with Facebook. Marie proposed a vote of thanks to Graham

Date of Next Meeting Zoom meeting on Wednesday 14th September 2022 at 7.30pm

