



Minutes of the hybrid Committee and Annual General Meeting held in the Regional Training Centre, Mayo County Council and on Zoom at 19.30 hrs on Wednesday 7th December 2022

Present at RTC

Barry Murphy (*chairperson*)
Graham Cawdell (*joint secretary*)
Pádraig Keogh (*treasurer*)
George Keegan (*PRO*)
Colm Madden (*committee member*)
Nathy Gilligan (*committee member*)
John Milroy (*past chairperson*)

Present on Zoom

Ruth-Ann Leak (*joint secretary*)
Marie Comerford (*committee member*)
Colin Guilfoyle (*committee member*)
Michael Russell

Apologies Jon Freestone, Nuala O'Malley, Kieran Flynn (*all committee members*)

Welcome Barry welcomed all attendees

Minutes of last meeting on Wednesday 16th March 2022. There were no amendments suggested.

Matters Arising Graham said that the branch flyer was not done and he felt it was low priority. The Yahoo to Google transition was progressing well. We now have 29 Mayo branch members some of whom are not BWI members on our email contacts list plus a couple on our WhatsApp but not email. Nathy reported that it's the wrong season for Men's Shed nest box construction! He said that John Lusby could probably do a talk on nest box construction and positioning.

Recent Events Reports from our two events were circulated with the agenda. Barry reminded us that we had 12 events this year of which two were indoor. Both of those were better attended and the prize went to the Gordon D'Arcy talk organised by George with 51 attendees. John felt that this number of events was excessive. He introduced himself as past chairperson and he explained how the branch developed from a local group of enthusiasts undertaking IWeBS counts of Clew Bay and Mayo Loughs. The branch was formed in 2003. He said that his counters were all aging and new counters would be appreciated. Graham mentioned that on our outdoor events there were usually local people attending. Colm suggested that we utilise parish newsletters and other local information networks. This brought the discussion onto our next agenda item.

Role of Public Relations Officer (PRO) Due to Zoom connectivity problems we were unable to discuss this at our last meeting. George had wondered if there was a need for this role with our increasing use of social media. From our experience there was some attendance from people in the area of our events. Hence local promotion would be beneficial.

Appointment of Committee In line with BWI guidelines all committee members should be re-elected annually including officers and all should be paid up BWI members. Barry confirmed that he would be stepping down as chairperson and also from the committee. He would also

withdraw from his administrator roles for our social media platforms but he was happy to continue with our website which he had so ably set up. Barry and Graham confirmed that each of our committee members who were unable to attend this meeting had expressed their willingness to continue on the committee. Barry asked those present both on Zoom and in the RTC if they would continue. All agreed. With regard to officers, Ruth and Graham agreed to continue as joint secretaries, Pádraig as treasurer and George as PRO. No one came forward for the chairperson vacancy.

So our committee for 2023 will be:-

Officers		Members
Chairperson	Vacancy	Colin Guilfoyle
Joint Secretaries	Graham Cawdell	Colm Madden
	Ruth-Ann Leak	Jon Freestone
Treasurer	Pádraig Keogh	Kieran Flynn
Public Relations Officer	George Keegan	Marie Comerford
		Nathy Gilligan
		Nuala O'Malley

Suggestions and feedback from attendees Just two members attending the meeting were not committee members so this item had limited scope. John re-iterated his wish for people to assist with IWeBS and stated that Graham and Colin had started this year. Michael said he had no suggestions.

Mayo Branch's 20 year anniversary We discussed whether we should hold an event to celebrate our branch's 20th anniversary. An indoor talk was thought to be ideal. Barry suggested that John be invited to talk as he was the first chairperson of our branch. John agreed and a date, venue and topic would be arranged shortly. Ruth, our longest serving committee member by far, is keen to be present and stated that she will be away for a short while. It was agreed that we would avoid those dates.

Thanks to Barry Murphy Ruth gave a vote of thanks to Barry for his hard work which vastly exceeded that of chairperson. In particular his design and production of our new website was a major undertaking and also sorting the administration of all our social media so we no longer had a single person organising these platforms. The members in attendance thanked Barry and wished him well in the future. Barry confirmed that he would continue to administer our website.

Date of Next Meeting - Zoom meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 15th February 2023.