



Minutes of Committee Meeting held
in Lough Lannagh Leisure Centre
at 19.00 hrs on Wednesday
21st June 2023

Present

Pádraig Kehoe (Treasurer)
Graham Cawdell (Joint Secretary)
Nuala O'Malley
Nathy Gilligan

Apologies

Ruth-Ann Leak (Joint Secretary)
George Keegan
Jon Freestone
Colm Madden

Welcome Pádraig agreed to chair the meeting which was just quorate.

Minutes of last meeting on Wednesday 12th April 2023 were accepted without amendment.

Matters Arising

- E mail request for chairperson and assistance with Instagram There had been no offers in response to this request. Pádraig recommended a further attempt for Instagram using our WhatsApp contacts.
- Branch bank account and finance Pádraig has established that the branch can open deposit accounts in Credit Unions or An Post at no cost. The meeting agreed that an account was only required for applications for grant funding. Graham said that he would discuss this with Mayo PPN along with some other branch matters. The cost of hiring this room and many possible alternatives were discussed. Pádraig said he had spoken to his local MP and was awaiting a reply.
- 20th Anniversary Event Nathy has been speaking to an eminent TV presenter regarding a talk and the end of October seemed a possibility. He would try to get confirmation as soon as possible. (*Nuala has subsequently suggested an alternative speaker.*)
- Loan binoculars and branch telescope No response to this email request.

Recent Events The reports were circulated with this agenda. The Dawn Chorus meeting had raised €80 for our branch funds. We felt that it was not appropriate to request donations at smaller meetings. Hence this was the only recent meeting where donations were encouraged.

Our annual summary and financial statement for BWI AGM This was included with the agenda.

Upcoming Events

- Saturday 15th July Woodland walk at Clonbur. Our branch had received some interest in this outing however Graham did not know the area so he planned a reconnaissance shortly.
- Sunday 17th September Seawatch at Downpatrick and Ceidi Fields This will involve sitting and observing birds flying past us out at sea. It will be weather dependent. Nathy suggested that we involve our local whale and dolphin watching group.
- Saturday 14th October Trawmore Bay and Cleggan Strand Trawmore has mudflats popular with wintering waders and you can take your car onto the beach whilst Cleggan is a sandy beach with various gulls and divers. Mid incoming tide would be preferable. Graham will not be available to lead this so a volunteer would be welcome!
- Sunday 12th November Rahasane Turlough, Galway This is Ireland's largest turlough famed for its wintering birds. It was agreed that we should discuss this event with the Galway branch because access to view the turlough appeared limited on Google Maps. If there are good viewing points then a combined meeting with our Galway colleagues would be preferable. But if not, an alternative outing should be considered.

Social media and Website Our recent chairperson, Barry Murphy, had stressed the need to have at least 2 administrators on all our social media platforms. He developed our new website and remains an administrator but has withdrawn from other platforms. Ruth has administrative responsibilities on a few and she is gradually reducing her role. We need to recruit IT knowledgeable personnel to assist. Graham stated that we may need to discontinue Instagram if assistance is not forthcoming.

Mayo Naturalist's Field Club This club ran from 2014-16. Margaret Flaherty (NWPS) and Deirdre Cunningham (MayoCoCo) plan to resurrect it with about 5 meetings per year. Our branch had received a request to lead an outing around Killala in November. Graham replied that he would be happy to assist but would include their request on this agenda. Nuala said she attended their outings which involved a spectrum of flora and fauna and were interesting. The committee agreed that we should support and assist this club as most birdwatchers have a general interest in wildlife.

Mayo PPN Branch Information Dissemination Our branch had received an offer to disseminate our flyers throughout the PPN's network of groups. The committee agreed to accept this though possibly selecting groups with a biodiversity interest. Graham to discuss this and other items with Mayo PPN.

Date of Next Meeting The planned date for our next meeting is 16th August. As there will be just one event to report and as we have agreed to change our meeting schedule by moving our AGM to April, we have postponed our next committee meeting until **20th September** and will decide on subsequent meetings then.