



Minutes of Committee Meeting

09:45 hrs Saturday 17th

February 2024

in the foyer of the Ellison

Present

Pádraig Kehoe (Treasurer & Acting Chair)
Graham Cawdell (Secretary)
Marie Comerford
Jon Freestone
Nuala O'Malley

Apologies

Colm Madden
Nathy Gilligan
Colin Guilfoyle
Ruth Ann Leak

Welcome and apologies

Minutes of last meeting approved with no amendments.

Matters Arising

- Social media and Website Barry had emailed the viewing statistics for our website which showed a significant increase from our first year despite no recent postings. There had been 1,900 visitors and over 4,000 viewings with our Homepage, Where To See Birds in Mayo and Irish and Latin Names being the most popular pages. Barry had added Graham to the editors and he had uploaded some photos, reports and links to videos on our YouTube channel.
- Mayo PPN Graham was elected unopposed to Mayo PPN as only two people applied for the Environment pillar.

Resignation of Ruth-Ann Leak as secretary Ruth said that she was standing down from her secretarial role prior to our newsletter being sent out. This week she informed the branch that she had not renewed her membership of BWI but would like to stay on our branch mailing list.

Recent Events - Reports accepted and posted on our website and FB.

Response to BWMayo Newsletter/Update Three people offered to guide/lead outings and the first took place last weekend led by Mick Oates. We agreed to include the other two in our schedule for 2024. No formal offers to join the committee had been received but there was some interest. Pádraig and Graham would discuss the roles with those members. There was no response for assistance with Instagram. Before discontinuing this media, he will speak with Colin who maintains our Twitter account.

Events for 2024 A draft programme was distributed with the agenda. It was agreed that we should include those who offered to lead an outing. Nuala had researched a boat trip to South Inishkea. Managing the finances and people dropping out because of the weather had been a problem with previous trips. Nuala had arranged for BWMayo not to collect the fares. Those attending would deal directly with the ferry charter and numbers would be limited to 24. It was agreed that we should do this and attendees could also visit Anagh Marsh to make a full day trip.

Discussion about our dawn chorus event followed. After considering alternative venues we decided to return to Enniscoe as the café has reopened and they had always made great effort to accommodate our group, and we try Saturday morning this year. We agreed that our sea watching event should be arranged at short notice in late August through September to try to optimise our viewing success with the right weather conditions. If Darren Ellis could lead our March event to the Louisburgh sea loughs then possibly we could encourage an IWeBS surveyor to guide an outing along the east side of Clew Bay in November. Pádraig said that the Foxford outing was particularly good with excellent views of sand martins so we'd include this in late April. In mid July there would be a reasonable chance of witnessing guillemot chicks jumping and observing obese fulmar young. The draft for the remaining outings was approved.

Grant Applications, Bank Account and BWMayo address There are many opportunities to apply for funding to support our activities. But to apply it is essential that we have a bank account in the branch name and an address for that. Jon queried the expense of this as we had an account which was costly. Pádraig said that he had researched the possibilities and there are no cost accounts available but they will not have debit cards, cheque books etc.. It was agreed that after our AGM the treasurer should open an account with officers of the committee as co-holders and that the treasurer's home / business address be used for that account.

Format for Photographs and Video Clips for our social media Graham receives photographs from members some of which are poor quality or extremely cropped. He felt that for inclusion on our social media we should have guidelines for the required format of both photographs and video clips. The meeting agreed that guidelines should be drawn up. All members who have subscribed to our WhatsApp "BWMayo Chat" group can post their photos and video clips. *(Following the meeting Graham felt that those submitting compliant photographs and videos should consent to their use on our website and social media platforms. Credit would always be given.)*

Format of Email Attachments Currently as secretary Graham writes all branch material in MS Word and sends those by email as both *.docx and *.pdf files. The meeting agreed that *.pdf should be the accepted format.

Any Late Notices

- **Save The Sky Dancer** All attendees had received this information on the tragic reduction in hen harriers in Ireland. Marie said that she had submitted her views.
- **Swift Survey** Nuala said that Linda Huxley and Yarrick plan to survey swift nest sites across Mayo this summer and the assistance of surveyors would be welcome. She would speak to Linda about the numbers that she requires and what training is necessary.

Date of Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be preceded by our AGM. Jon stated that our committee members need proposing and seconding. Graham said that anyone willing to take on a role was automatically appointed at the last two. The meeting felt that nominations with proposers and seconders would be preferable. Prior to sending out the details of our AGM Graham or Pádraig would talk to current and prospective committee members. There was agreement that 4 meetings per year should be adequate.

Date in April and venue to be decided. With distribution and encouragement to attend posted on all our sites about 28 days ahead.