



Minutes of AGM and Committee Meeting  
held in the Meeting Room, Lough  
Lannagh Leisure Centre at 19.00 hrs on  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Present	Apologies
Graham Cawdell (secretary)	Colm Madden (committee)
Pádraig Keogh (treasurer)	Keiran Flynn (committee)
Nuala O'Malley (committee)	Marie Comerford (committee)
Jon Freestone (committee)	Henry Kenner (member)
Nathy Gilligan (committee)	
Colin Guilfoyle (committee)	
George Keegan (member; ex-committee)	
Mick Oates (member)	
Karen Hunt (member)	

## AGM

**Welcome** Graham suggested that he chair the AGM then Pádraig chair the committee meeting. He reminded the group that we had a tight schedule as the room is booked afterwards.

**Minutes of last AGM** had not been circulated.

### Nominations of Mayo branch officers

The nominations for chairperson, secretary, treasurer, assistant secretary and IT & social media lead with their proposer and seconder had been circulated to all branch members two weeks in advance. Graham read out these nominations, and stated that there had been no objections and no other candidates were put forward. These committee posts were duly filled.

Membership of our general committee was open to all willing BWI members. All current members had intimated that they were happy to continue apart from Kieran Flynn. He would prefer to stand down whilst he's so busy but would be interested in rejoining in the future. He would be happy to lead another event in the Lough Carra area. (*For discussion at our next full committee meeting*). With regard to the research officer post, the branch secretary occasionally receives enquiries that require expert advice. Also, surveys are being run in Co. Mayo which it would be beneficial if the branch could link into. An expert birder with good local knowledge of sites and with contacts to other local experts would be ideal.

### The committee for 2024/5 will be

Chairperson - Pádraig Keogh  
Secretary - Graham Cawdell  
Treasurer - Mick Oates  
Assistant Secretary - Karen Hunt  
IT & Social Media Lead - Colin Guilfoyle

General committee members - Colm Madden, Jon Freestone, Nuala O'Malley, Nathy Gilligan and Marie Comerford.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Pádraig reminded us that it was 16 months since our last AGM. We had an opening balance €482.07 and the current balance was €281.26. Our only income had been €80 donations at the dawn chorus event. Outgoings included two years website subscription and room hire. Discussion followed about future income generation and the fact that we cannot avail of grants without a branch bank account.

### **Summary of Events**

Graham summarised our outings of which 14 were organised from January 2023 to date. One was cancelled due to a high wind weather warning. The numbers attending were slowly increasing and our last three events had been led/guided by branch members.

### **Suggestions from branch members**

None forthcoming.

Our AGM was closed. George excused himself and Pádraig took the chair for our brief committee meeting.

## Committee Meeting

**Minutes of Last Meeting** - circulated with the agenda. No amendments suggested.

**Matters Arising** Colin has taken on our Instagram account. Graham has not had time to produce guidance for submission of photographs and video clips to the branch.

**Recent Events** The circulated reports from recent events were accepted.

**Outings for 2024** Discussion about the start time of our dawn chorus event concluded that it should be 7am. Nuala and Jon reported that they had visited recently and the café would be open. The ferry trip to Inishkea South Island was finalised with two ferry crossings at 12 and 14:00 hours currently closed to booking until our notification is sent out. Each crossing will take a maximum of 12 passengers. It was decided that we should have at least one committee member on each crossing to guide and ensure minimal disturbance of the wildlife. Jon and Nuala said that they would go on 12 o'clock and Graham on the 2pm. Pádraig would contact Sean Lavelle regarding accessibility. It was agreed that we would open the bookings at the weekend and send notification. The following outing is Ballina based on Saturday 15/6. No one is down to lead this and Graham will be away, so he'll discuss this with Colm as it's his patch. Sunday 14/7 is our visit to Downpatrick which should be around the time that the guillemot chicks jump from the cliffs. Darren Ellis spoke to Graham recently and suggested that perhaps we join with Irish Whale and Dolphin Group for our sea watch and Hannah Keogh might lead this. To be successful this event needs organising at the last minute when the weather conditions are optimal. The committee agreed that we try this format and possibly two events in the time frame. The subsequent outings were not discussed but Graham again suggested that we introduce talks as they can generate income for the branch and stimulate interest in wildlife.

**Website** Graham had spoken to Barry Murphy about the inclusion of a section on the branch management; committee, minutes, guidance, BirdWatch Ireland items etc.. Barry has done this. The committee should check the website and decide what content we include at our next meeting.

**Any Late Notices** Lynda Huxley (Swift Conservation Ireland) is conducting a thorough swift survey throughout Mayo. The Mayo branch helped to distribute this to our members. She had a good response and Lynda will contact those individuals shortly to arrange locations, training etc.

**Date of Next Meeting** 11:00 am Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024 in the foyer of the Ellison Hotel