



## Minutes of Committee Meeting

The Foyer of the Ellison Hotel

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 11:00hrs.

Present	Apologies
Pádraig Keogh - chairperson	Colin Guilfoyle - IT
Graham Cawdell - secretary	Karen Hunt - assistant secretary
Mick Oates - treasurer	George Keegan
Nuala O'Malley	Colm Madden
Marie Comerford	Nathy Gilligan
	Jon Freestone

**Welcome** Pádraig welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. Graham gave the apologies as above.

**Minutes of last meeting** on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024. No amendments suggested.

**Matters Arising** No matters arising as they are covered in the agenda items.

**Reports from Recent Events** Circulated with the agenda. No amendments requested. Graham said that these are posted on our website and Facebook as soon as possible after each event with any photographs and Colin also posts relevant sections on Instagram and X. The meeting agreed that it was important to do this to maintain interest in our activities.

**Bank Account** Mick confirmed that we have a bank account with the Credit Union in Claremorris. He thanked Graham and Karen for going to Claremorris to countersign the application. Two signatures are required to withdraw funds, those of himself and Padraig. Mick confirmed that we will be able to make online deposits and that all committee members will be circulated with the relevant BIC and IBAN numbers. Currently the account has €295.

**“Events Co-Ordinator”** Pádraig confirmed that he had met with George to discuss this role on the committee. The precise title can be decided at a later stage. George was unavailable today but he had contacted Padraig regarding his progress on organising an event in Westport. Discussion took place regarding this new position and whether it should be ratified at this meeting. The meeting agreed to this role and the appointment of George. Graham reminded the committee that our most well attended event had been the Gordon D’Arcy talk organised by George but it had incurred a small loss of funds.

**Website** Attendees confirmed that they had viewed the website and were happy with the inclusion of our minutes etc. in the “Branch Information” section. Graham said that he would only upload them after they have been agreed at the following committee meeting unlike the event reports (see above).

**Social Media** Colin had confirmed that he is posting on both Instagram and X. Graham informed the meeting that our 100<sup>th</sup> branch member was added to our contacts’ list last week.

**Branch guidelines for submission of photographs and videos** Circulated with the agenda. Graham read the statement that contributors would be asked to copy and return to BirdWatch Mayo with their first submission. The committee agreed to introducing this agreement and that the copyright remained with the individual and not BWMayo.

**Mayo Swift Survey** Nuala summarised the initial findings of this survey which she and a few other BWMayo members had contributed to. Following the distribution of our draft minutes Nuala contacted me to request that no details are posted by our branch before the results are published.

**BWI Branch Guidelines** BWI has reviewed the current guidelines. Graham reported that he had responded to BWI regarding aspects of the current guidelines and in particular the complexity of organising boat trips for our members. The new guidelines will be on the agenda of the forthcoming Branch Meeting in Limerick.

**Mayo County Council Strategic Policy Committees** Since our last committee Mayo PPN had requested nominations to sit on these committees. Graham asked Pádraig to nominate him for the Climate Change and Environment SPC. There were two applicants so an election was held with just 4 votes cast, 2 each! The other applicant had applied for another SPC as well so Graham had been duly appointed. He hoped that this would improve his networking but relevant linkage groups had not been set up. The meeting congratulated Graham.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Saturday 26/10/24 - Valley area, Achill. Meet in public car park at Achill Sound. Graham will lead the group.
- Sunday 17/11/24 - East Clew Bay. Mergansers were the target species for this outing. Nuala would speak to Stephen Meaney about leading this. Colin or Darren would be alternative choices.
- Saturday 14/12/24 - Kilalla and Ross Strand. Always a favourite, Graham can lead this. Note that the date has been postponed a week.
- Murmuration. There are often starling murmurations in the Lough Carra area. Both Nathy and Kieran Flynn have offered to lead an outing there when the conditions are right. It would be at short notice and posted a day before to our members.

**Outings for 2025** An outline had been circulated with the agenda. Colin had replied that it seemed fine and would be happy to lead a couple. Graham had suggested dates that avoided IWeBS and recommended that if we have offers to lead events then the choice of Saturday or Sunday should be up to the leader. The meeting agreed. Hence our outings may not alternate.

The proposed table is attached to these minutes.

## Any Late Notices

- BWI Branch Meeting – Limerick 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024 Jim Fitzharris (chairperson of BWI) had requested that two representatives from each branch attend. Yesterday BWMayo received a reminder and plea as the uptake has been very poor to date. Pádraig had said that he wanted to attend and Mick said that he could go. They will report back at the next meeting.
- Wings submission Coilin from BWI has requested details of our outings up to March 2025 by Monday! Graham said that he will see what he can do.

**Date of Next Meeting** Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024 at 11:30 in the foyer of the Ellison Hotel.

*Remember that if you are staying for lunch afterwards that you can use the multistorey car park for no charge provided you give your car registration to the receptionist.*

## Outings for 2025

Date	Venue	Hope to see?	Guide / Leader
Sun 19/01/25	Belmullet	Geese esp. barnacle, ducks, gulls and waders	Graham Cawdell
Sat 15/02/25	S. Mayo turloughs	Wintering waterbirds	Mick Oates
15-6/03/2025	Louisburgh Sea Loughs and Shore	Wintering water and sea birds	TBC
12-3/04/2025	Tourmakeady woods & waterfall	Dipper, woodland birds and early spring migrants	Colin Guilfoyle
Sun 04/05/25	Clonbur Woods	Dawn Chorus	Graham Cawdell
Sun 25/05/2025	Foxford	Sand martins, spotted flycatcher	Pádraig Keogh
14-5/06/2025	South Iniskea Island	Island nesting birds	TBC
12-3/07/2025	Downpatrick Head	Cliff nesting seabirds with their young	Graham Cawdell
Late Aug /Sept	Seawatch from Kilcummin, Erris or Anagh Head. Date depending on wind and weather.		TBC
18-9/10/2025	Mulranny	Brent geese, waders, egrets etc	Colin Guilfoyle
22-3/11/2025	Achill Island – Valley area	Choughs, ducks and divers	TBC
13-4/12/2025	Kilalla & Ross Strand	Wintering Waterbirds	TBC
Winter	Murmuration - site and time dependent on their roost, weather, accessibility etc.. Last minute notification		