

## Minutes of Committee Meeting

The Foyer of the Ellison Hotel

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025 at

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

### Welcome

**Minutes of last meeting** on Wednesday 07<sup>th</sup> December 2025. No amendments suggested.

### Matters Arising

1. Bank account for Birdwatch Mayo - €300 currently held in the account. Anyone can transfer into the account provided that they have the IBAN for the BWMayo account. Only Mick and Padraig can make withdrawals.

2. WAP-BWMayo Chat - Seems to be working well. Inappropriate/irrelevant chats are deleted by administrators.

4. **Funding** -no changes since last meeting.

Mick has submitted to an application to Mayo County Council for the purpose of purchase of a scope for the BWMayo branch. If successful and the scope is purchased, there will be 'rules' around use of the scope.

Ask for voluntary donations for those that attend events e.g. collection box at each event.

5. **Branch Hide** The Galway branch have a hide near Tuam. There are a couple in Mayo but they have problems with design, site and maintenance. Pádraig said that there is an excellent hide at Moate. Suggestion to contact Galway branch regarding their hide.

6. **Talks, Lecture and Slideshows**

Indoor events are a means for raising branch funds provided the overheads are low.

- Talk by Eoin Warner. Ongoing discussions with Sheila Murphy and Deirdre Cunningham and Nathy Gilligan. Eoin Warners fee is €400 plus VAT. March 10<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> was suggested needs to be agreed on, as does the location and advertising to promote the event.
- Other potential talks include:

- Colin Guilfoyle and his work at Wild Nephin
- Graham Cawdell and breeding in birds
- Nathy Gilligan and Barn Owls

Discussion followed on potential venues and topics. There is a room available at the Grainne Uaille for free. Limitations- the in-room screen is small.

### **Upcoming Events**

1. Turloughs of South Mayo Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February. Meet @10am at the Country Pub (Fforde's Pub, Taugheen) – Mick to lead this
2. Sea Loughs and Seashore, Louisburgh. Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March.  
Hopefully Darren Ellis will lead this.

**Reports from Recent Events** Circulated with the agenda.

### **Membership fee**

Discussion around membership fee. It was reiterated that the decision had been taken not to introduce a Membership fee. Voluntary donations for talks and outings are encouraged.

### **Linkage Groups**

Graham is the Public Participation Network (PPN) representative on the Strategic Policy Committee for climate change and biodiversity. Would be useful if someone else from the membership or committee is trained on the process for Linkage groups, and then feed any relevant information into Graham to pass to the strategic committee.

### **Any Late Notices**

Birdflu has been detected in some wild birds in N. Ireland. Any birds noticed with signs of Birdflu should be notified to the NPWS.

Karen Hunt to discuss with Jackie Hunt about the possibility to do a talk on her work on Breeding waders.

**Date of Next Meeting and AGM:** Wednesday 16 April 2025 at 7:00pm. Venue to be confirmed either Ellison, ATU or the Grainne Uaille.