



## Minutes of Committee Meeting

The Foyer of the Ellison Hotel

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025 at 11:30hrs.

Present	Apologies
	Pádraig Keogh - chairman
Mick Oates - treasurer & acting chairperson	Colin Guilfoyle - IT & Research Officer
Graham Cawdell - secretary	Nuala O'Malley
Karen Hunt - assistant secretary	Marie Comerford
Colm Madden	Rosemary McCreery
	Nathy Gilligan
	Jon Freestone

**Welcome** Mick opened the meeting and informed us that Pádraig's father had died this week. On behalf of the committee Mick offered our sincerest condolences to Pádraig and his family.

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

### Matters Arising

- WhatsApp "BWMayo Chat" Graham and Pádraig discussed the problem of inappropriate posts. These had reduced and we decided not to issue further guidance.
- Meeting Points The size and complexity of Co. Mayo with at least 4 main centres means that we cannot offer meeting points like the Sligo branch. We decided to ask anyone on our contacts list who wished to attend an outing to contact the branch via email or post a request on WAP "BWMayo Chat".

**Reports from Recent Events** Circulated with the agenda. No amendments requested.

### Upcoming Events

- **Downpatrick Head – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July**
- **Seawatch** Graham to contact Darren. Late notice event dependent on the weather.
- **Mulranny - Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October** Colin has agreed to lead. TBC
- **Away Day/Weekend - Sat/Sun 22-23/11/25** In principle the meeting thought this would be a good development. The fact that the proposed date was months away provided more time to research our 2 suggestions, Inch Reserve in north Donegal and Lough Boora Discovery Park in Co. Offaly. Options for mini bus hire, car share and overnight stay will be investigated. Decision to be made at our next meeting. Graham mentioned that previous events involving hired transport had incurred some financial losses for the branch as well as extra administrative duties and recommended that we do not involve the branch in any finances.

**Indoor events and talks** The Grainne Uaile kindly provided their meeting room for our last meeting and AGM for no charge. The problems with access at the Grainne Uaile was a concern. We decided to investigate other potential no or low cost venues with good AV facilities prior to our next meeting. Karen's sister was willing to do a talk on breeding waders in west Mayo.

**Any Late Notices** Graham had received some details of successful Mayo County Council grant applications and had not spotted our application. So, our application may not have been successful. However Sheila Murphy, Mayo CoCo Biodiversity Officer, had expressed a wish to support our purchase of a telescope.

**Date of Next Meeting** Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 11:30 in the foyer of the Ellison Hotel.