

**ARGYLL BIRD  
CLUB**

*from 7p.m. by Zoom*



**Minutes**

Present: Nigel Scriven, David Jardine, David Harris, Alistair McGregor, Steve Petty, Gordon Holm, Andy Robinson, Rachel Harris, Bob Furness

**1. Apologies:** Malcolm Chattwood, Frauke Thornton

**2. Declaration of any conflicts of interest:** none

**3. Minutes of the committee meeting 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025:** These were approved; proposed Nigel Scriven, seconded David Harris. All action points had been completed with the exception of the drafting of a conservation strategy, which is carried forward.

**4. Matters arising not included in the agenda:** Neil Hammatt has resigned from the committee.

**5. Club Finances**

Draft accounts were circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed to keep the committee expenses tab in the accounts even if the sum was zero, but it was agreed that a broader heading (office expenses) could be used to cover postage, stationery etc. It was agreed that general fund expenditure should be listed separately from conservation fund expenditure and that conservation fund money should be put into a suitable bank account giving interest but also easy access to the funds. Edits to the conservation fund guidance document were discussed and will be implemented by David Jardine. It was agreed that we should aim to put the guidance document on conservation fund use onto the club web page, with a suggested limit of £1000 for grants. The possible use of conservation funds as a loan to cover costs of publishing a new Birds in Argyll book was agreed in principle. Annual bird report expenses should be allocated from general funds. Edits should consider youth category to be up to age 25. Welfare considerations in relation to any bird feeding should be included. **ACTION: David Harris to investigate possible accounts for holding conservation fund assets; David Jardine to edit the conservation fund guidance document.**

**6. Indoor Meetings**

*Autumn meeting 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025* Logistics are organized but it would be useful to list local people who can help. Programme has been altered to include a talk on sand martins by Claire Branston. BTO are unable to provide a speaker but anticipate being able to do so for the March 2026 meeting. At present the programme is not on the club's web page but was included in the Eider. Producing precis of talks for inclusion in the next Eider was allocated among committee members, with Alistair taking the two talks on mink, Rachel the talk on sand martins and the speakers for the others to provide a precis themselves. It was noted that there will be two vacancies on the committee that could be filled at the AGM, and that other committee members were willing to continue if approved at the AGM.

**ACTIONS: Nigel to put revised programme on the web page; Rachel to send list to David Jardine.**

*Spring meeting 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026* Seil Community Hall is booked. Catering arrangements and programme to be decided later.

**7. Outdoor Meetings**

Unfortunately the 31<sup>st</sup> Aug - Ailsa Craig and 27<sup>th</sup> September – Arran trips had to be cancelled due to severe weather.

25<sup>th</sup> October – Alistair McGregor – Toward and Loch Striven

29<sup>th</sup> November – Jim Dickson – Loch Gilp and Add Estuary

*December* – no field trip planned

*January* – David Jardine – North Argyll – details to be arranged

*February* – Nigel Scriven – Skipness? – details to be arranged

*March* – Alistair McGregor – Cowal or Bute– details to be arranged

## **8. Club Projects & Activities**

*Mink trapping* - Making progress, and will be presented at 1<sup>st</sup> November meeting.

*Songmeter recording* -An article is ready for the December Eider.

*Holy Loch LNR* - Nothing to report.

*Auchgoyle Farm, Cowal* - Nothing to report.

*Conservation Plan/Strategy* - Nigel is working on this and aims to have a draft completed before the 1<sup>st</sup> November meeting. **ACTION: Nigel to circulate draft.**

## **9. Publications**

*Birds of Islay & Jura* Publication has been delayed but there may be news on this to put into the December Eider.

*The Eider* – The next copy deadline is 20<sup>th</sup> November. Dave Sexton has provided a note on first breeding of nuthatch on Mull. David Jardine will prepare the December issue using a template that will be provided by Steve.

*Bird Report* – Progressing as usual and on schedule (aiming to have the 2025 report available by the March 2026 meeting).

*Website* – Nothing to report

*Facebook* – Nothing to report

## **10. Committee communication**

Currently all emails to secretary are also copied to chair. **ACTION: Malcolm to adjust to stop these emails being copied to the chair and to put agreed committee minutes onto the web page.**

## **11. Club Archives**

No new developments.

## **12. BTO update**

Winter Bird Survey has started but with little input from Argyll area so more coverage would be useful.

## **12. A.O.C.B.**

Noting that this would be Steve Petty's last committee meeting, on behalf of the bird club committee Nigel thanked Steve for his huge contribution to the club, and in particular for his outstandingly efficient editing of the Eider over many years.

**13. Date of next Committee meeting:** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 by Zoom.