

ARGYLL BIRD CLUB



Minutes

1. Apologies for Absence. Apologies for Absence were received from Gordon Holm, Andy Robinson and Rebecca Cheape.

2. Declaration of any conflicts of interest. None.

3. Minutes of the committee meeting 10th February 2026 (which had been reviewed by email).

Adopting the Minutes was proposed by Nigel Scriven, seconded by Dave Harris. These minutes will be posted on the ABC web page (**Action: Malcolm**).

4. Matters arising not included in the agenda. None.

5. Club Finances

Current position. This was summarised by Dave Harris, based on the report previously circulated to the Committee. It was agreed that we should earmark funds for production of Birds of Argyll (the aim being for this new book to be published by ABC). A planning team for the book will be set up and will advise on how much should be set aside for this venture.

6. Indoor Meetings

Spring meeting 7th March 2026 Seil Island Community Hall. It was generally agreed that this meeting went well. However, we need to organize who will be responsible for each activity at future meetings well in advance, especially in relation to teas, coffees and washing up. It was agreed that it would be helpful to use the membership list to look at where those who attended this meeting came from, as it is not clear to what extent moving meeting venue attracts people from the local area, or puts off people from further away (**Action: Rachel**).

Autumn meeting Saturday 7th November Kilmartin Church is booked as is catering for lunch. Grace volunteered to head the kitchen for teas, coffees and serving lunches. Nigel is working on the programme. He suggested adding a new component of "ten slides in ten minutes" by members, this to be announced in The Eider requesting volunteers (**Action: Nigel**). We discussed whether the meeting could be recorded for potential upload to the web page to allow members to view. It was agreed that a trial will be run before the next committee meeting (**Action: David and Malcolm**).

The Spring meeting in 2027 will be booked for the appropriate Saturday to be at Dunoon.

7. Outdoor Meetings

It was agreed that a first aid kit will be supplied by ABC to each field trip leader (or group who can share conveniently) with replacement contents provided by ABC as required. It was agreed that Andy Craven would be contacted to ask his advice on which kits to purchase and to investigate if he could provide first aid training to leaders, and possibly also to club members if they wish (**Action: Dave**). It was agreed that leaders should record emergency contact details for each participant.

30th May – Auchgoyle Farm, Tighnabruaich – Alistair McGregor

13th June – Sanda – Nigel Scriven

July – no field trip

22nd August – CalMac Ferry day trip to Islay and Jura – David Jardine

26th September – lower Loch Striven – Alistair McGregor

We discussed the possibility of school trips led by an appropriate teacher together with ABC. This will be tried with Oban High School if this would be agreeable to the school management (**Action: Grace**).

8. Club Projects & Activities

Conservation Plan/Strategy – Yet to be circulated to Committee members (**Action: Nigel**).

Grant applications – none currently being considered. Committee felt that it would be useful to summarize expenditure on different topics over recent years (**Action: Dave**).

Mink trapping - ongoing, and appears to be progressing well. It might be a good plan to add Gigha to the programme, and possibly also the Mull of Kintyre. We discussed whether ABC should be helping to promote a “mink-free Argyll”, perhaps by starting with a summary of the current position (with Pete Creech) then if appropriate to discuss with NatureScot and Scottish Government (**Action: Nigel**).

Songmeter recording - to be deployed for Nightjars from late May onwards.

Holy Loch LNR – nothing to report.

Auchgoyle Farm, Cowal – nothing to report in advance of a club field trip to see progress at that site in May.

9. Publications

The Eider – Deadline for copy for the next issue is 10th May.

Bird Report – Nigel will print 20 copies for sale.

Website and Facebook – Jim would appreciate two or three extra people to help with moderating the Facebook page.

Publicity materials – Danielle will draft an A4 advertising poster and circulate to committee for review (**Action: Danielle**).

Birds of Argyll – It was agreed that a team will be set up to take this project forward, an early objective being to assess publication costs and set a time scale and allocate tasks. David Jardine and Bob Furness volunteered to participate in this and it was assumed that Jim Dickson would have a very important role in this which needs to be discussed with Jim. It was agreed that a note would be put into the August Eider to invite any club members who felt able to help with this to get in touch (**Action: Bob**).

10. BTO update

Nothing to add.

11. A.O.C.B.

None.

15. Date of next Committee meeting – Tuesday 11th August depending on availability of The Hub, Inveraray (**Action: Dave will book venue**).