Committee Meeting - Tuesday 11th August 2026

ARGYLL BIRD CLUB

Minutes

1. Apologies for Absence and Resignation from Committee. Apologies for Absence were received from Grace Maclean, Rachel Harris, Alistair McGregor, Gordon Holm, Andy Robinson and Rebecca Cheape. The Committee accepted the resignation of Gordon Holm from the Committee and it was agreed to seek to find a new member in replacement.

2. Declaration of any conflicts of interest. None.

3. Minutes of the committee meeting 5th May 2026 (which had been reviewed by email). Adopting the Minutes was proposed by Nigel Scriven, seconded by David Jardine. Those minutes will be posted on the ABC web page (**Action: Malcolm**).

4. Matters arising not included in the agenda.

Analysis of the influence of indoor meeting location on the attendance of members showed that there is a clear trend for more attendance by people who live locally to the venue as might be expected, and that highest attendances tended to be when the meeting was in the Kilmartin area. Committee agreed that this was a good reason to move spring meeting venue to different areas but to aim to hold the autumn meeting in the Kilmartin area.

Testing of recording and uploading of talks showed that to be feasible. Committee agreed that live streaming may be a step too far at present, but that we should aim to record some talks at forthcoming indoor meetings with a plan to make recordings available online.

Several Actions listed in the previous Minutes had not been carried out so were carried forward. These are:

Adding a new component of "ten slides in ten minutes" by members, this to be announced in The Eider requesting volunteers (**Action: Nigel**).

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

A summary of the current position on mink trapping then if appropriate to discuss with NatureScot and Scottish Government (**Action: Nigel).**

Draft an A4 advertising poster and circulate to committee for review (**Action: Danielle**).

5. Club Finances

Current position. This was summarised by Dave Harris, based on the report previously circulated to the Committee. The Club's financial position remains very healthy. There was some discussion of whether we should be seeking to encourage junior membership. This led to further discussion of need to consider child protection issues if we have junior members in future.

6. Indoor Meetings

Autumn meeting Saturday 7th November Kilmartin Church is booked as is catering for lunch. At present two talks have been arranged so committee discussed other possible speakers to be invited (**Action: Nigel**).

The Spring meeting in 2027 will be booked for Saturday 13 March at Dunoon if venue is available **(Action: Alistair).**

7. Outdoor Meetings

Committee thanked Dave for drafting guidance documents for leaders and for participants. It was agreed that these should be previewed in the next Eider and presented to members in the AGM in November for discussion. It was also agreed that an item should be put into the next Eider about possible training by Andy Craven for leaders and regular attendees of field trips and to contact current trip leaders to check on their current first aid training (**Action Dave**).

22nd August – CalMac Ferry day trip to Islay and Jura – David Jardine. This is overbooked and it was thought that there may be scope to run a second trip in early September to allow more people to participate (**Action: David**).

26th September – lower Loch Striven – Alistair McGregor

31st October – Loch Laich, Appin – David Jardine

28th November – Loch Gilp and Add Estuary – Jim Dickson

December – no meeting

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 – no further progress to report.

Grant applications – none currently being considered.

Mink trapping – ongoing.

Songmeter recording - deployed over summer. Results to be reported soon.

Holy Loch LNR – nothing to report.

Auchgoyle Farm, Cowal – ongoing.

9. Publications

The Eider – Deadline for copy for the next issue is 20th August.

Bird Report – Committee agreed that we should provide non-current bird reports in electronic form to be uploaded onto the SOC website (**Action: Malcolm**).

Website and Facebook – Committee agreed that we should put a request in the next Eider for two or three extra people to help with moderating the Facebook page (**Action: Danielle**).

Birds of Argyll – Committee discussed plan to take this project forward, an early objective being to assess publication costs and set a time scale and allocate tasks.

10. BTO update

Nigel will talk about new surveys at the November indoor meeting. Details of a BTO Zoom meeting on 14th September were noted about developing local bird atlas plans.

11. A.O.C.B.

None.

15. Date of next Committee meeting – Tuesday 20th October depending on availability of The Hub, Inveraray **(Action: Dave will book venue).**