

Avon Bat Group Minutes 19/11/09

Attendees: Committee: Laura Plenty (LP), Jim Mullholland (JM), Bob West (BW), David Brown (DB), Dan Merret (DM), Rob Bacon (RB). Members: Rob Frith, (RF), Iain Hilsom (IH), Sonia Reali (SR), Ken Anstey (KA), Vilas Anthwal (VA), Claire Shellis (CS), Mark Fox-Smith (MFS)

Apologies: Emma Stone (ES), Mike Williams (MW), David Westgate (DW). Heidi Cooper-Berry (HCB), John Gadsdon (JG).

Note: [Blue](#) is new.

Item	Discussion	Responsibility
Website	ABG to re-affirm commitment to DB regarding payment for his website services half-yearly.	DB to sort ASAP.
Website (item brought forward during write up as it fitted better up here)	Membership base should be encouraged to be more involved, perhaps create more pages for the website, 'where to see bats in Avon', 'what species are there in Avon?' etc. DM suggested stealing some of Batscapes old pages.	DM to chase BaNES.
Committee Structure: Titles	The question of whether titles for the committee members are needed was raised by JM. JG confirmed that titles are necessary as roles need to be defined to ensure certain jobs get done. The committee accepted this comment and discussed more appropriate titles, perhaps adding the work 'coordinator' to the titles to ensure the membership base is clear on who does what. Perhaps DM could be 'parish warden coordinator', JM 'bat box coordinator', HCB and BW 'bat care coordinators and/or BW 'events coordinator' etc. This item requires further	Committee to discuss titles further. Next meeting. CARRIED OVER.

	discussion.	
Committee Structure: Secretary	<p>The potential need for a secretary for the ABG on the committee was raised. LP asked what a secretary would do as the role is currently divided between JG, BW and DB - passing this role to one new person may over-complicate things. It was decided that the membership base would be asked if any one was willing to take on the role of secretary but that if no-one stepped forward the committee could cope.</p>	<p>Gained a committee member in Pernell. Need to engage Pernell in committee activities! Committee appears to be functioning fine without a secretary.</p> <p>Close item- group doesn't need a 'secretary'.</p> <p>Chase Pernell- does anyone know her well enough to chase?</p>
Communications	<p>It was brought to the committee's attention that only half of the membership base is currently signed up to the Google group. JG commented that his IP will only allow him to send e-mails to 10 people at once and therefore the Google group makes distributing e-mails more easy. DB's IP allows him to send e-mails to as many people as he likes. DB suggested setting up an e-mail address which the committee could send an e-mail intended for the whole group to and this would be automatically sent out to the entire membership base. JG and DB would liaise in order to keep the list updated with new and ex members. The Google group should be used for discussions between group members. JG will post updates out to the 8 people not on e-mail. Is ES the Google admin again? Would it be</p>	<p>Continue using ABG info to send messages to the whole group and JG to keep non-email members in the loop (replies to ABG news/info are forwarded by DB to most relevant committee member). LP to look into potentially closing the Google group and starting a new one with all committee as admins. DB to send email to group asking them to bear with us and explaining our issues with the group as it is.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LP to close google group. - How many members aren't on Yahoo, how can we encourage them to join? JG to chase. - On a new note, ensure group emails are sent to info@avonbatgroup.co.uk

	pertinent to have at least one other admin in case this situation arises again?	
Membership Records	On the membership form, people are invited to tick boxes about what they are interested in i.e. box checks, talks and walks etc. Could this information be utilised better?	JG to update form in order to change the tick boxes to 'if you are interested in bat box checks contact batboxes@abg.co.uk (or whatever it is!)' etc. DB to create more e-mail addresses to this end i.e. one for bat care, one for bat walks, one for parish wardens, one for count bat etc. LP to send email to committee to discuss what we should have as contacts. ONGOING
Bat Boxes: S. Glos bat box money	Assumed boxes must be put up within S. Glos boarders. DM suggested the Wickwar area for putting up new boxes and suggested JM contact Mark Smith from FWAG in order to locate farmers who may be happy for bat boxes to go up on their land. DB said he could contact the head of the West arm of the Woodland Trust to see if we could put boxes on their land. DM brought to the committee's attention that there may be boxes on farmers land that aren't being checked. JM raised the possibility of getting boxes onto the Dyrham Park estate. JM suggested using the money to supplement the current boxes in S. Glos with flat boxes rather than trying to find a new reserve.	DM to contact Mark Smith regarding current boxes and the possibility of installing new boxes. JM has researched costs, quotes are not coming back in our favour. JM to continue pursuing costs. JM to pass on his list of people interested in boxes to JG to ensure lists match. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JM says he doesn't need more money and will pass current boxes to VA to put up at Purdown. - ONGOING
Bat Boxes: BaNES	JM raised a query on behalf of Villas (?) and Lee Mantle about more boxes in Browns Folly. There are currently 20 but the reserve could hold 40 and it would make more of a day out of the check. Committee are	Further discussions required by the committee. Next meeting- CARRIED OVER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JM suggested VA approaches the committee with a figure for us to discuss.

	generally for the installation of more boxes at Browns Folly but on the condition that Lee and Villas make the checks more available to ABG membership base.	
Bat Mitigation	Various committee members raised a discussion about consultants' mitigation and ABG carrying out monitoring. Could ABG encourage consultants to involve them? At least tell ABG when mitigation is installed so we can check it of our own accord - how?	LP to give DB details about 'bat house' in Clapton-in-Gordano ONGOING DM (?) to investigate Long Ashton mitigation success. DM/JM to investigate ABGs involvement in consultancy work CLOSED. CARRIED OVER: HCB suggested looking at planning applications, after much discussion it transpired that DB basically does this as much as he can but unless we organise a massive undertaking to look at everything, we will miss some smaller things CLOSED.
Flight Cage	HCB raised the need for a flight cage in the Avon area. Nearest flight cage is Secret World (?). DB thinks Melanie (?) or Elm Farm may be willing to have a flight cage on their land to be used by bats for short period (i.e. not a permanent 'roost' but more of a field trip for the bats). Committee are in favour of a flight cage in the Avon area.	HCB to investigate further- CONTINUING. Progressing well, may need additional funding. DM suggests press involvement. DB raised planning as an issue HCB/B to discuss further. HCB wasn't able to make meeting but BW/DB showed bat care news flight cage which cost £5000 and was all singing all dancing. DB thinks the planning issue has been resolved providing it can be proved that the structure is 'temporary'. MFS has some comments so suggested he talk to HCB directly.
55 pip PhD	HCB has been in discussion with T(?) re this project. He has asked how much money we would like for participating. The committee suggested asking him how much other groups are asking for. It was suggested that this could fund the flight cage (beginning of anyway). Dm said that £20 was	HCB to investigate further- begins in the next few weeks. HCB couldn't make meeting but various people filled in that it had been a tricky project but that money would be on it's way.

	reasonable and less than this would be selling ourselves short. MW asked if we need to ID insects.	
Projector/Laptop	'Awards for All' funding - may provide funding for both.	BW to discuss with DW. - DB has purchased a used projector which still has lots of life left in it. - DB to pursue DW for monies. - RF has a laptop we can have, LP to send him a follow up e-mail.
Polo shirts	For the ID of the committee for use when running events. This was done before but failed. Committee generally for new polo shirts.	JM to look into costings- only possible once new logo/original artwork sorted. - See logo comments to follow.
ABG Logo	DW raised that he would like the original artwork for the logo. The committee suggested the logo needs updating. HCB is willing to create a new logo but currently has no time. Considered re-vamping the current logo. DB suggested someone who may be willing to design a new logo.	DB to chase- if original artwork can't be found, competition for members to design a new one discussed. - MFS and VA may know someone who can re-draw the logo. - BW has spoken to the artists partner and to the original members, best thing is to start fresh but keep the same elements in the logo as it is recognisable as ABG.
Walks	JG suggested we arrange a walk at Eastville. HCB is happy to run. DB stated that there were quite a few walks on the calendar but JG noted that the members enjoy walks so maybe we should try and do more.	HCB to arrange a date for Eastville. Don't think this walk happened- CLOSED. LP/JM have been approached by Jon Morris to run a walk at Conham- LP to arrange and notify members. Walk done, JM sent e-mail to group. LP suggested sending an email out to the members reminding them how easy it is to run a bat walk and to put it on the calendar so that 'more knowledgeable' members can support- try to do this before next season (wrong time of year now!). DB noted that Mandy Leavers requested we run a walk in Leigh Woods- needs a leader?- DONE she owes us £70 DB to chase. BW noted that many other walks

		were also run, many in conjunction with South Glos council.
Member database	JG told the committee that he has created a database with members details including what aspect of bat group activities they're interested in- this can be queried (via JG) by interested parties.	HCB/DB/BW to query for people interested in bat care, JM/LP to query for bat boxes. ONGOING
Bat care: funding	BW wanted to discuss funding of bat care with DW. HCB noted how expensive bat care is and how useful a lend-able 'kit' would be.	To be discussed at next meeting that DW is present at- in the meantime retain receipts. ONGOING as HCB not present.
Bat care: new carers/protocol	HCB informed the committee that she is in the process of training new carers. HCB is also preparing a protocol, essentially a form of disclaimer to protect the ABG. It will be overseen/bounced off of other experience bat carers.	HCB to write protocol, DB/BW/ Dot, to check/approve/make suggestions. HCB continuing to progress.
Bat Care: Avon Helpline	Committee is in agreement providing the helpline does not aim to replace the BCT only provide a back-up and that enough members are willing to support it.	HCB to investigate ONGOING. As an aside HCB has created a national carers forum group on Yahoo.
Bat Care: Sub-committee	It is becoming apparent that bat care could do with a sub-committee.	HCB/DB/BW to discuss ONGOING.
Count bat	Claire Wickham has made lots of contacts which DM has been busy visiting and is arranging walks/talks/events for ABG to join in on. DB is in very slow talks about running events/walks/talks at Charlton Farm respite hospice.	DM to pass on details to ABG. DB to continue with slow talks. Both CLOSED.
Bat stickers/business cards	To leave with people who have bats/are interested in bats/ are interested in ABG	On hold until logo sorted. In interim committee proposed that any business card designs should be

	etc.	passed by the committee but are a great idea. Linked to Logo (above) .
Tereza Rush and Stockwood boxes	No one is aware of the current situation with these boxes ABG paid for.	JG to gently pursue ONGOING .
Big Bat Bonanza	JM filled in the committee on the adventures he has planned with DM at Folly Farm on the weekend of 31 st July-1 st August.	JM to advertise event to the group. Success- more events like this please! CLOSED.
Bio Blitz	DB is running a dusk walk at this event in conjunction with Hawk and Owl Trust to note down anything that moves at dusk.	DB to send email out to ABG. Success- more to come next year, watch this space! CLOSED.
Conham Culvert	JM filled in the committee on current status of this project. The culvert has been successfully grinded but to the wrong spec. Can be fixed with an angle grinder.	JM to chase Jon Morris. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grill successfully opened up. - Culvert successfully cleared (partially) and hibernation checks will be run this year. - CLOSED.
AOB: Old Market bats	ABG on the case.	DB to keep committee informed of developments on this topic. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bats were seen entering/exiting. - County ecologist was informed and became involved.
AOB: Big Bat Map (Count Bat)	DM told the committee about a new project where members of the public put sightings of bats onto a map and local bat groups confirm species where possible.	DM to keep committee informed (LP and JG think this is a great idea). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM needs one person to represent the group as the 'record checker'. This doesn't mean they go out and verify them, but they can be responsible for passing on potential roosts to people to check. Any volunteers or shall we open it to the group?
AOB: Tyntesfield	The question of why ABG aren't involved here was brought up. DB filled in that the previous contact (Ian Chaddenwick) had left and DB was letting the new one settle in. DB is the 'bat warden' for this site but	DB to contact new Tyntesfield contact and keep committee informed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ONGOING. BW gave DB a leaflet with details of new contact on.

	the people in the house don't care about the bats so are hard to make progress with.	
Lapsed Memberships	This was instigated by the comments made that a lot of the people on the Yahoo group weren't members, it transpired that they were lapsed members who hadn't paid up. JM suggested pushing Standing Orders to avoid this problem.	JG to alter form to gently push setting up SO's. Perhaps send out a mail to lapsed members encouraging them to set up SO's? Jon, you may already do this but as JM and LP already pay by SO we don't know what you do to encourage people to do it!
Hibernation	DM- this was all started when Phil Quinn asked for volunteers to take over his checks. Angus and Purnell will be taking over. DM listed all the people who he knows of that currently do checks (I wont repeat them).	IH and VA have volunteered to be 'hibernation monitors' to ensure we're checking all the sites we know of, finding more where we can and ensuring we're not double-checking anywhere. BW to pass on hibernation roost records to IH and VA. DM to send IH and VA all his details of hibernation roost checkers. DM to put something together for RB for the newsletter.
Newsletter	RB suggested he could get one out by Christmas to ensure something about hibernation was disturbed to all members to help IH and VA with their search before the season began.	RB to produce newsletter. ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS to submit anything for the newsletter.
Count Bat- 'City Bats'	DM has applied for some funding to run events in inner city Bristol working with 'friends of' groups to run fun day and walks.	If funding works out, DB has a potential site.
AGM	Where/When/Main event?	JM suggested BAWA as it is relatively accessible by bus. JM suggested asking Sandy Sowler to talk as he believes she owes him a favour. MFS was asked if he could ask Chris Packham and Martin from AutumnWatch.
Chair	DM explained that ES has been forced to step down as Chair due to her PhD and family illness. LP	DB to send out an email to the group explaining what has happened and what has been proposed. In the mean time, LP and DB to take

	volunteered to take on Chair responsibilities but VA pointed out that we should open it up to the group.	on 'Co-Chair' responsibilities.
Winter Events	JM suggested we try to run some events through the winter. This year we will try to have things organised in advance as it is believed that this was the problem last winter.	Daniel Hargreaves will run one on Thai bats. Vilas, JM and RB volunteered to run one.
Leisler maternity roosts	The council believe they are aware of a few maternity roosts across the city.	IH to e-mail group to ask if anyone knows of any (other than the main one).
Overs wood court Siston	KA and SR raised the comment that boxes could go here.	JM to investigate.
Records	LP noted that sending casual records to BW is really important and the most important section of the record form is the notes column so put in as much detail as possible.	LP to send out an e-mail to the group.
Date of next meeting: Not determined. To be arranged via e-mail. As it is quietening down I suggest we try to go back to monthly meetings?		