

# STRETTON AREA COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

## MINUTES OF MEETING

25/11/2025



**Present:** Isabel Carter (IC), Will Priestley (LWP), Sally Mawhinney (SM), Leo Smith (LS), Julie Cowley (JC)

**Apologies:** Penny Bienz (PB), Steve Butler (SB), Maggie Bentley (MB), Jan Hegmann (JH), Martin Hegmann (MH)

1. PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING	ACTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Garden Wildlife Survey open evening was well received (approximately 40-50 people attended). The full report from the survey findings is available on the SACWG website. WP said that the Podcast recorded during the evening was very good.</li> <li>SM suggested that promotion of events through Mayfair could reach a wider audience. IC said that the primary school is also another channel we could use in the future</li> <li>LS suggested giving a talk to the local SWT branch about the survey.</li> </ul>	
2. TREASURER'S REPORT AND INSURANCE MATTER	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The annual statement has been prepared with some minor adjustments to be made. There is a balance of £722 carried forward</li> <li>LWP suggested that at the AGM/APM we ask the audience if they have any ideas for raising funds for SACWG</li> <li>The public liability insurance has been reviewed by LWP and an amendment has been made to the policy so that it reflects what is said in the constitution (about the work SACWG carries out). However, survey volunteers are not insured. IC to enquire with the High Leasowes (HL) and Middle Marches (MM) committee how they deal with the cover for volunteers. This matter will require further investigation.</li> </ul>	IC to discuss with HL and MM committees re insurance for volunteers
3. PROJECT UPDATES	
<p><u>Swifts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JC attended the National Swift Conference where it was confirmed that blocking access to a live Swift nest site is a wildlife crime. She is collaborating with West Mercia police on this matter</li> </ul> <p><u>Bats</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing to report</li> </ul> <p><u>Hedgehogs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing to report</li> </ul> <p><u>Tree Planting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing to report</li> </ul> <p><u>Wetlands and Cudwell Meadow</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The meadow has been grazed by sheep (now removed). The scrape is looking good, and 6 species of dragonfly/damselfly have been recorded. The site is currently under water. SvT will come onto site next summer to carry out excavation of the drainage system (if it is dry enough). The east boundary of the site will be planted with wildflower plugs</li> </ul> <p><u>Bird surveys</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curlew: No Curlew chicks from fenced nests fledged and survived in 2025, or in any of the previous years since 2021. Fencing of the nest sites is now being abandoned as sufficient evidence has been gained to demonstrate the risk to curlew once they leave the enclosure. Group population monitoring will continue. Curlews have the highest priority in the Shropshire Local Nature Recovery strategy</li> <li>Grouse: The population has declined by ~ 50% since 2018. Monitoring will continue</li> <li>Dippers: Data are to be analysed.</li> </ul>	

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<p><u>Butterflies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MH and JH have been conducting a weekly survey in Batch Valley as part of the Butterfly Monitoring Scheme. This project has seen a successful resurgence</li> </ul> <p><u>Dormice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Dormouse nests found in Ragleth Wood/Gough's Coppice</li> </ul> <p><u>Bumblebees</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IC will introduce a new bumblebee project at the AGM/APM</li> </ul> <p><u>Website</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More regular updates are needed (SM)</li> <li>Promotion of SACWG through Instagram and Facebook to be raised at the next meeting.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. FUTURE PLANNING AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IC wishes annual training for volunteers to continue, with a view to conducting two training sessions in 2026: wildflowers, and ladybirds. This training will feed into a bigger funding application where the emphasis is on community engagement, the specific focus for SACWG being the primary school (years 5 and 6). IC has met with the Forest School leader at the school; discussions and a project bid are ongoing. However, to deliver this work we need a small group of volunteers to participate. Please contact IC/JC for more information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training is provided for new helpers for the Curlew and Grouse surveys</li> </ul> </li> <li>LS advised that the National Lottery funding of a 10 year project for National Landscapes is being drafted by Charlie Bell (CB). All 46 national landscapes areas can bid and 20 are likely to be funded. LS is going to ask CB for two paid support officers to help with the administration of the Community Wildlife Groups. Additional funding will be needed for specialists to analyse and interpret the data collected. If successful it will enable LS to step aside after a transition period.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. COMPLIANCE OF AGRI-ENVIRONMENT AGREEMENT ON PONY HEADAGE</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A letter has been drafted to the Rural Payments Agency raising concerns about whether the number of ponies on the Longmynd complies with the agri-environment scheme in place</li> <li>The condition assessment of the Longmynd SSSI will be carried out in 2026.</li> </ul>	<p>JC to sign and send letter</p>
<p><b>6. AGM/APM FORMAT</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The AGM/APM is scheduled for 5 February 2026</li> <li>The event will follow the format of 2025 – a mid-evening interval when refreshments will be served. A meeting on 13/1/2026 is scheduled to discuss planning of the evening and preparation of the annual report.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. AOB</b></p>	
<p>John Bacon has resigned from the committee. A big THANK YOU to John for all his work in nature conservation.</p>	