

# HAMPSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the thirty eighth Annual General Meeting of the Hampshire Ornithological Society, held at the John Stripe Theatre, University of Winchester on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

The meeting was held at 13:05 during the Hampshire Ornithological Society Open Day. The HOS President, Chris Packham was unable to attend as he was filming in Japan, so HOS Chairman, Alan Snook chaired the AGM.

## 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Chris Packham, John Clark, Sandy and Bryan Coates and Brian Sharkey

## 2. Minutes from the Thirty seventh Annual General Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016)

The minutes were accepted. Proposed by Jonathan Mycock and seconded by Keith Betton.

## 3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

## 4. Chairman's Report

Alan started his report by thanking the audience for coming to the meeting on a wonderfully sunny day. He then announced that it will be his last AGM as Chairman, as he was standing down after the usual period of office of five years. He observed at how lucky he had been to be born in Hampshire with its wealth of bird habitats, including two National Parks. He is a long standing member of HOS and has held a number of posts, including Secretary and Newsletter editor, culminating with the privilege of being Chairman.

During the year HOS received a kind donation of £100 from a member who preferred to stay anonymous and £30 from Romsey Methodist Women's Fellowship, in thanks for a presentation made to them by Dr. Patricia Brown.

Alan congratulated Mike Chalmers on his first Hampshire Bird Report, as editor – an excellent publication, keeping to the very high standards set by his predecessor, John Clark. He also thanked Phil Budd for the consistently high quality society newsletter, Kingfisher. As this was his last AGM as Chairman, Alan wanted to place on record his thanks to all the past and present members of the HOS committees and those who helped run the Society. Finally, he wanted to thank the HOS members for their help and support over the last five years.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

The HOS Treasurer, Brian Leach announced that he also will be standing down after five years. He had made copies of the 2016 accounts available to members on entry to the meeting. They are also available on the HOS website. Brian pointed out that the accounts were again presented on a receipts and payments basis. There was less Hampshire Bird Atlas activity this year. Sales and sponsorship receipts being almost equal to the final production costs. The University failed to bill the Society for Open Day 2015, so both costs are shown in the 2016 accounts. The Society's cash reserves at the end of 2016 stood at £58,509. This is down from 2015, by £6,056, but does include £8,753 made in grants. Brian considers the Society's finances to still to be very satisfactory. He also pointed out that there is no remuneration paid to any of the Society officers, but reasonable travel expenses may be paid to attend meetings.

Brian thanked Andy Mitchelmore for volunteering to take on the role of Honorary Treasurer.

The accounts were proposed by Phil Budd, seconded by John Norton and accepted by the members present.

## 6. Election of Officers

The list of Officers presented for election was included in the papers for the AGM, which were sent to all

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members, six weeks prior to the meeting. The list was updated at the meeting to include Andy Mitchelmore as Honorary Treasurer. The list of Officers for the next year, who are Trustees of the Society, is as follows: Keith Betton (Chair), John Shillitoe (Honorary Secretary), Andy Mitchelmore (Honorary Treasurer), Marcus Ward, Andy Broadhurst, Mike Chalmers, Simon Boswell, Philip Budd, Kay Shillitoe, Caroline French, Simon Curson, Dan Hoare, Jonathan Mycock and Mike Wall.

Proposed by John Norton, seconded by Dave Munday and accepted by the members present.

## **7. Any Other Business**

There being no other business, the formal part of the Annual General Meeting was closed at 13:25.

## **8. President's Address**

Our President, Chris Packham was unable to attend as he was in Tokyo. However, he stayed up late to address members online, using Skype – possibly a first for a Presidential Address to a Bird Club! His main theme was Conservation and the threats to birds, especially in the unique New Forest. He urged HOS members to take an active role in educating and persuading people to help conserve the birds and habitats of the county. He also commented on the illegal hunting of Turtle Doves and welcomed the talks on farmland birds on the agenda. A recording of his address made by HOS member Ian Julian, can be found on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmI5JNY2ITDIXOHBorkJ1pA>).

John Shillitoe  
Honorary Secretary  
April, 2017