

HAMPSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the thirty seventh Annual General Meeting of the Hampshire Ornithological Society, held at the John Stripe Theatre, University of Winchester on Saturday 2nd April 2016.

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

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Chris Packham, Di & Martin Mitchell, Phil Budd, Jodie Southgate, David & Julia Crossley, Andy Rhodes and Richard Carpenter.

2. Minutes from the Thirty sixth Annual General Meeting (28th March, 2015)

The minutes were accepted. Proposed by Jonathan Mycock and seconded by John Eyre.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

Alan started his report by thanking John Eyre for his work as editor on the Hampshire Bird Atlas – “a tremendous piece of work, of which we can all be proud”. He also thanked John Clark for another excellent Bird Report. John is standing down as editor and will be replaced by Mike Chalmers. Alan thanked the members of the Management Committee who will be standing down – Mike Armitage, Andy Broadhurst, Alison Cross and Andy Rhodes. He also thanked Jonathan Mycock who is standing down as Chair of the Membership Committee – and indicated that the Society would welcome volunteers to take on this role.

During the year HOS received a kind donation from Simon Ingram in memory his friend and a sadly missed member, Glyn Horacek-Davis, who passed away in June 2014.

Alan was delighted to report that, as a result of the funds produced by the Atlas, the Society will be supporting Conservation work in the county. On an annual basis, HOS will be making significant grants to projects which will help benefit birds and habitats in Hampshire. Two grants have already been made – for additional Tern rafts at Blashford Lakes and for further research into Woodlark movements using geo-locators. Alan was pleased to announce that BirdTrail will take place again this year on Sunday, September 25th. This is being organized by Patricia Brown, who would welcome help from volunteers

5. Treasurer's Report

The HOS Treasurer, Brian Leach had made copies of the 2015 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 expenditure basis. The production and sale of the Hampshire Bird Atlas, meant that 2015 was a busy year financially. Consequently receipts and payments were significantly up compared to 2014. The production costs of the Atlas were largely covered by the generous sponsorship of the Atlas by individuals and companies. The Society's cash reserves at the end of 2015 stood at £64,565. If Atlas related transactions are removed the Society had a surplus of income over expenditure of around £3,000. Brian pointed out that there is no remuneration paid to any of the Society officers. Reasonable travel expenses are paid to attend meetings.

Brian thanked Shaun Le Picq, who is standing down as the Society's Independent Examiner, after 16 years. The Society is looking for a volunteer to replace Sean and indicated that the Charity Commission requires independent examination of annual accounts which exceed £25,000.

The accounts were proposed by Mike Wearing, seconded by Keith Betton and accepted by the

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members present.

7. Election of Officers (Item 6 in the Agenda was erroneously copied over from 2015)

The list of Officers presented for election was included in the papers for the AGM, which were sent to all members, six weeks prior to the meeting.

Proposed by John Norton, seconded by Brian Sharkey and accepted by all the members present.

7. Rule change

Rule 3.b) vii requiring the Management Committee to meet four times a year, to be changed to three times a year.

Proposed by Keith Betton, seconded by Jonathan Mycock and accepted by all the members present.

8. Any Other Business

There being no other business, the formal part of the Annual General Meeting was closed at 13:20.

9. President's Address

Our President, Chris Packham was unable to attend. However, he had recorded a video for us on his mobile phone, which replayed remarkably well on the large screen in the auditorium. His main theme was Conservation and he emphasized the importance of HOS members taking an active role in helping to conserve the birds and habitats of the county. He also made several very positive references to the Hampshire Bird Atlas.

John Shillitoe
Honorary Secretary
April, 2016