

# HAMPSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the thirty ninth Annual General Meeting of the Hampshire Ornithological Society, held at the St Swithun's School, Winchester on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

The meeting was held at 13:05 during the Hampshire Ornithological Society Open Day. The HOS President, Chris Packham chaired the AGM.

## 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Keith Metcalf, Roger Dickey, David & Julia Crossley

## 2. Minutes from the Thirty eighth Annual General Meeting (25<sup>th</sup> April, 2017)

The minutes were accepted. Proposed by Steve Page and seconded by John Clark.

## 3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

## 4. Chairman's Report

Keith started his report by thanking the very large audience for coming to the meeting and welcomed them to the new venue. He then reported on HOS surveys carried out in 2017, on Corn Bunting and Turtle Dove. There were more Corn Buntings than expected, with concentrations in the north and west, but the numbers of Turtle Dove were sadly as feared. This year there will be surveys of Dartford Warbler and Nightingale.

The Society is very grateful for two very large donations received from a member who preferred to stay anonymous. This money will be used to fund Conservation projects. HOS funding for Conservation projects granted in 2017 was in excess of nine thousand pounds.

Keith reported that HOS has started running courses. These are proving very popular, with three run during the winter and five bird song courses planned for the spring. A photography course is also planned for summer and further courses on waders and gulls proposed for the coming autumn/winter. Keith is keen to encourage young birders and announced that Tommy Saunders (our only Junior member) will take on youth recruitment. The Bespolka Trust has kindly agreed to sponsor membership for Junior members and those still in full-time education. The Bird Camp targeted at younger birds is planned for June.

Keith closed by thanking the members of the HOS committees and others who have helped with the smooth running of the Society over the past year.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

The new HOS Treasurer, Andy Mitchelmore introduced himself to the members present and thanked his predecessor, Brian Leach for the smooth handover. Copies of the 2017 accounts were available on the HOS website and to members on entry to the meeting. Andy presented the accounts, which were presented, as usual, on a receipts and payments basis. Receipts totaled £26,124 and expenditure was £25,325, giving an excess of £799 for the year.

Andy pointed out that not all of the grants made in 2017 had actually been paid. Also, because of timing of the invoice, five editions of Kingfisher were paid in 2017 and only three in 2016. Changes in our insurance provider and deposit account also affected timing of payments. There were no Atlas costs in 2017, but sales continue, albeit at a much lower level than previous years.

Andy thanked HOS member Ian Packer, who is a chartered accountant, for acting as our Independent Examiner – at no cost to the Society.

The accounts were proposed by John Clark, seconded by Jonathan Mycock and accepted by the members present.

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## 6. Election of Officers

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. The list was updated at the meeting to show Phil Budd continuing as Kingfisher editor. 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, Chris Manning, Andy Broadhurst, Mike Chalmers, Alison Cross, Simon Boswell, Philip Budd, Kay Shillitoe, Dan Hoare, Jonathan Mycock, Nicky Court and David Brookes.

Proposed and seconded 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 started his address by commenting with sadness on recent articles in the press on the collapse of bird populations in France and on British farmland. He also commented on the slaughter of song birds in Malta and Cyprus, but acknowledged that there may be some glimmers of hope with action from the authorities. He went on to stress that persecution of birds is also a UK problem, with particular emphasis on the continuing "disappearance" of birds of prey. Much of this is associated with illegal activity on and near hunting estates.

More locally, he was pleased to see the conservation actions being taken by HOS and the announcement of the new RSPB reserve in the New Forest. However, all is not well in the New Forest, with heavy over-grazing causing serious habitat damage. Chris also commented on the ethical stances taken by the various optics manufacturers. Some have ceased to market to trophy shooting interests, while another supports the Bird Fair, at the same time that they sponsor the National Rifle Association in the USA. He closed on a positive note, by congratulating HOS on publications like the Atlas and the Bird Report. He feels that the BTO is a world leader and that developments in tracking technology make this an exciting time for ornithology.

John Shillitoe  
Honorary Secretary  
May, 2018