

HAMPSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the forty first Annual General Meeting of the Hampshire Ornithological Society, which was due to be held at the St Swithun's School, Winchester on Saturday 28th March 2020. Due to government restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the meeting was cancelled.

In order to achieve an orderly closure to the business of 2019 and elect the Officers of the Society for 2020, the Trustees decided to hold a "remote" AGM. All members were notified of this in the Society's Kingfisher Magazine, which was published in June 2020. Members were invited to vote on agenda items requiring membership agreement. A form was set up on the Society's website for members to record their votes electronically. Voting could also be submitted by mail or email. Only members are allowed to vote on AGM resolutions, so they were asked to provide their post code when responding electronically. This was used to validate membership against the Society's membership data base. Voting opened on June 12th and was closed on July 19th. Eighty-nine members voted electronically and one via postal vote. The quorum for an AGM specified in the Society Rules, is 20 so this requirement was met.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for the meeting on March 28th, were received from David and Julia Crossley, Mike Chalmers and Simon Stacey.

2. Minutes from the Fortieth Annual General Meeting (7th April, 2019)

The minutes were accepted by a majority of the members who voted.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report to members was included with the AGM programme and agenda sent to members in February 2020. Keith Betton provided the following update to this in the Kingfisher Magazine sent to members in June 2020.

"Firstly, I hope this message finds all of you in good health and coping with the constraints that have been placed upon us – especially those who have faced even longer periods of lockdown. Secondly, I'd like to thank everyone who has helped HOS in various ways in the last two months. We've had to cancel a lot of meetings and adapt to new ways of operating. The Kingfisher newsletter is on schedule and will be full of news and articles of interest and we are also well advanced on writing the 2019 Hampshire Bird Report.

Normal life will resume eventually and everything we usually do will be put back. And with that positive thought please note the date of next year's Members Day – Saturday 27 March 2021.

Had we met in March I would have told you very much what I wrote in the AGM programme. Two updates I can give are that we will now run our Snipe Survey in the New Forest in 2021. The second is that our Young Member Scheme has continued to expand – and at one end we have a 6-year old girl who is crazy about birds, and at the other a 22 year-old female Masters student studying zoology. Many thanks again to the Cameron Bespolka Trust for funding these members. We have been able to attract around 35 young people into HOS as a result of your generosity.

The AGM agenda is the same as you saw originally with one small change. John Shillitoe will continue in the role of Secretary until the next AGM when David Brookes will succeed him.

Thank you for taking part in this online voting process and enabling us to fulfil our commitment to the Charity Commission.

Please stay safe – and I look forward to seeing you once life returns back to normal.

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Keith Betton
Chairman
Hampshire Ornithological Society”

5. Treasurer’s Report

The HOS Treasurer, Andy Mitchelmore made the 2019 accounts available online prior to the planned AGM in March. The accounts were shown, as usual, on a receipts and payments basis. Receipts totaled £41,206.33 and expenditure was £35,296.21, thereby giving an excess of income over expenditure of £5,910.12 for 2019.

Andy made couple of observations on the accounts.

The excess was significantly augmented by the extra income from the surveys. If all goes to plan there will be similar survey income in 2020. Membership income increased because the increase in membership subscription to £16 started to come through in November and December 2019. We also had an increase in membership numbers, which is encouraging and always good news.

On the expense side the new style Kingfisher Newsletter, which has received good feedback, resulted in increased costs. The excellent 2018 Bird Report appears to be less expensive than the previous year, but one cost component for £840.00 was not paid for until January 2020. Members' Day last year also increased in cost.

Andy thanked HOS member Ian Packer, who is a chartered accountant, for acting as our Independent Examiner – at no cost to the Society. This was Ian’s third and final examination, as he is stepping down from the role.

The accounts were accepted by a majority of the members who voted.

6. Re-election of Society President, Chris Packham

The Chris Packham was re-elected as Society President by a majority of the members who voted.

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 of Officers proposed for the next year, who are Trustees of the Society, is as follows: Keith Betton (Chair), John Shillitoe (Honorary Secretary, change from published agenda), Andy Mitchelmore (Honorary Treasurer), Marcus Ward, Andrew Colenutt, Barry Page, Keith Betton (as County Recorder), Mike Chalmers, Andy Lester, Barry Page, Kay Shillitoe, Annette Clayson, Nicky Court, Julianne Evans, Tom Jordan and Nicola Whitmarsh plus David Brookes (co-opted)

The list of Officers was accepted by a majority of the members who voted.

8. Rule change

A change to Rule 4b concerning misconduct was proposed as follows:

“4b) Misconduct

i) If any member shall be guilty of conduct, which in the opinion of the Management Committee, is contrary to the interests of the Society or injurious to its reputation, that person shall be liable to expulsion from the Society. This will be by resolution of a meeting of the Management Committee. This may be one of the regular meetings of the Management Committee or one especially arranged, if a matter of urgency. The member will be given at least fourteen day’s notice of the meeting and will be presented in writing with the

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allegations and of the intended passing of the resolution. The member shall have the opportunity of attending the meeting, accompanied by one other person, if he/she wants and, before passing of any resolution, have an opportunity of giving orally or in writing any defence he/she may think fit.”

The changes was agreed by a majority of the members who voted.

7. Any Other Business

There was a question was raised electronically (via the HOS mail list server) on how the Society would send out notification to a member concerning an allegation of misconduct and what sort of behavior would constitute misconduct. The Chair responded that Recorded Delivery would be used for the notification and referred to the HOS Birders' Code of Conduct for an indication of the type of behavior expected from HOS members.

A question was raised about finding suitable venues for AGM/Members' Day. The Chair replied that there were a limited number of places in the county capable of holding up to 400 people, however we are always looking for and are willing to investigate suitable alternatives.

The voting on the 'remote' Annual General Meeting was closed at midnight on July 19th, 2020.

8. President's Address

As he was unable to talk to us in person, our President, Chris Packham prepared a video for the Society members, which can be viewed online at (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=trWfBlcUwCk&feature=youtu.be>).

John Shillitoe
Honorary Secretary
July, 2020