

HAMPSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the forty second Annual General Meeting of the Hampshire Ornithological Society, which was held remotely on Saturday 27th March 2021, as a result of government restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

All members were notified of this remote meeting in the Society's Kingfisher Magazine, which was published in February 2021. Members who were unable to attend the remote meeting were invited to vote on the agenda items requiring membership agreement, either by post or using an online form on the HOS website.

The AGM was chaired by HOS President, Chris Packham.

1. Apologies for absence

There were none.

2. Minutes from the Forty first Annual General Meeting (delayed to 19th July, 2020)

The minutes were proposed by Hilary McBean and seconded by Janice Beck and accepted by a majority of the members who voted, with nil against.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

Keith Betton opened his Chairman's Report by welcoming members to this novel approach to our AGM and Members' Day and by thanking all the HOS members who help make the Society run.

Keith reflected on the effects of Covid, with cancellation of meetings but was pleased that members had embraced Zoom which allowed the Society to deliver a series of talks on birds during the previous six months. He hoped that occasional Zoom talks would continue to augment the annual programme in years to come. Covid had resulted in a reduction of recruitment in 2020 to 104 new members, but that already 78 had joined in the first three months of 2021. In addition, the number of Young Members had now reached 50. He reported that HOS was now taking a more active role in challenging damaging planning applications and that the Society was working with the RSPB and HIWWT to raise concerns about proposed developments on the Tipner Peninsula in Portsmouth Harbour. He outlined plans to survey Sand Martins, Snipe and Turtle Doves and encouraged participation. HOS's plans for a book on the Rare Birds of Hampshire were also outlined. He closed by thanking everyone who had made the HOS machinery work smoothly.

A video of Keith's report can be found online at (<https://youtu.be/q23B4hIGSrc>). There is a link to it on the HOS website.

5. Treasurer's Report

The HOS Treasurer, Andy Mitchelmore made the 2020 accounts available online prior to the AGM. Andy was unable to present his report due to a computer problem, so John Shillitoe read Andy's report.

Andy thanked HOS member Joy Aubin, who is a chartered accountant, for acting as our Independent Examiner – at no cost to the Society. Accounts were shown, as usual, on a receipts and payments basis. Receipts totaled £47,099.78 and expenditure was £24,040.75, thereby giving an excess of income over expenditure of £23,059.03 for 2020.

Andy made some observations on the accounts.

Money from subscriptions increased by roughly £500 in 2020. With the increase in the subscription from £12 to £16 you might expect this increase to be larger, but a lot of members pay their subs in late

HAMPSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

November and December. This has skewed the amounts between the two years. Sale of our data from observations and surveys increased by roughly £5k. The income from surveys will not be as large in 2021 as we are only supporting one request for a survey on breeding waders in the New Forest. Receipts from Members' Day were zero because Covid prevented us from holding it and this also suppressed income from publications and clothing, a lot of which gets sold on the day.

We did not make any grant payments in 2020 because Covid restricted the ability of recipients to spend the money. We hope to make the payments for both 2020 and 2021 grants this year. The Kingfisher newsletter reduced to three editions in 2020, hence the reduction in cost compared with 2019. We have had to book the Members' Day at St Swithun's Winchester with a deposit of the full cost of location hire. We are carrying it over again to 2022.

The accounts were proposed by Jo Drew and seconded by Keith Metcalf and accepted by a majority of the members who voted, with nil against.

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), David Brookes (Honorary Secretary), Andy Mitchelmore (Honorary Treasurer), Marcus Ward, Andrew Colenutt, Barry Page, Keith Betton (as County Recorder), Mike Chalmers, Andy Lester, Barry Page, Kay Shillitoe, Janice Beck, Annette Clayson, Julianne Evans, Tom Jordan and Nicola Whitmarsh.

The list of Officers was proposed by Maxwell Wilson and seconded by Mary Parker and accepted by a majority of the members who voted, with nil against.

7. Any Other Business

There was a point raised electronically (prior to the meeting, via the online voting form), requesting the Society to make its involvement in planning applications more visible and involving members more, where possible.

Keith responded that a page has now been set up on the HOS website and that requests for member involvement in planning applications would be sought – probably via HOSLIST. As pointed out earlier in his Report, recent HOS involvement had delayed work at Fleet Pond until after the breeding season.

A question was raised during the meeting asking if HOS could take action about the continuing use of lead shot. Between 4 and 6 tonnes of lead shot are fired annually, in spite of voluntary measures by the shooting fraternity to reduce and ultimately eliminate its use.

Keith said that HOS would consider what actions it could take.

8. President's Address

Our President, Chris Packham thanked Nicky Court for her three years as a Management Committee member and Trustee. He also thanked John Shillitoe for being the Honorary Secretary for many years and announced that John and Kay (the Membership Secretary) had been made Life Members of HOS.

Chris then presented his Address to the Society members via Zoom. As usual his talk covered a wide range of interesting and challenging topics. He encouraged everyone to take the interruption to life caused by Covid-19, to rethink our approach to the natural world, re-appraise our views and if needs be to change our minds. The world needs to change.

HAMPSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

His address can be watched online at (<https://youtu.be/yg-vHjmSA4k>). There is a link to it on the HOS website.

John Shillitoe
Honorary Secretary
March, 2021