



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Wiltshire Ornithological Society held on Wednesday 10th April 2019 at the Corn Exchange, Devizes, Wiltshire.

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Deputy Chairman, Paul Castle, welcomed 65 members to the 44th Annual General Meeting. Apologies were received from Matt Prior, David Little, Frank Mogford, Jenny Elvin, Linda Cady, Rob Turner and Chris Woods.

2 Minutes

The Minutes of the 2018 AGM had been circulated prior to the meeting. Amendments were suggested and agreed as follows: in section 1, the previous meeting was the 43rd AGM not the 42nd as stated; in section 9 *Qunatrill* should read *Quatrill* and in section 10 *Joh* should read, John. Andrew Bray proposed and Sue Wilthew seconded the acceptance of the minutes which was confirmed by the meeting; Paul Castle signed them as a true record.

3 Chairman's address

Matt Prior had prepared a written statement which was read by Paul Castle. This is an attached document.

4 Treasurer's Report

Income and Expenditure Accounts for the period ended 31st December 2018, Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2018 and the Independent Examiner's Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The treasurer, Martin Cook, explained the accounts; there were no questions. The auditor was thanked for his work. Martin then sought approval for a Reserves Policy as follows *"To ensure the continuity of conservation, monitoring and other activities, which are key to the charity's role and existence, WOS should act in order to ensure that, at all times, unrestricted reserves in General and Designated funds (i.e. excluding Restricted funds) are of an amount roughly equal to one average year's total costs of the society, taking into account the last 3 to 5 years of activity."* This was agreed by the members present.

5 Recorders Report

Nick Adams, Wiltshire Bird Recorder had prepared an Annual Bird Review for 2018 which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Nick addressed the meeting making an appeal for more records to be submitted and particularly for key species like Curlew of which there are now probably fewer than 10 breeding pairs in Wiltshire. This species is being surveyed in Wiltshire and help is required, the co-ordinators are Phil Sheldrake from the RSPB for the south of the county and Jonny Cooper, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust for the north.

A concern was expressed by Ray Archer that individual members can sometimes reveal sensitive information regarding the whereabouts of rare and threatened species. The Recorder stated that WOS itself only gave a general area, never a specific site for these species and that individuals should be aware of the risk of disclosing sensitive information.

6 Election of Chair & Deputy Chair

Matt Prior & Paul Castle are willing to continue [Matt within 3 year tenure]. Nick Adams, proposed and Gareth Hawkes seconded their appointment, this was carried by the meeting.

7 Election of Treasurer

Martin Cook was re-elected having been proposed by Nick Adams and seconded by John Osborne, this was carried by the meeting.

8 Election of Secretary

David Little was re-elected having been proposed by Bill Quantrill and seconded by Gareth Hawkes, this was carried by the meeting.

9 Election of Committee

Nick Adams, Andrew Bray, Peter Cranswick, Graham Deacon, Jenny Elvin, Gareth Hawkes, Frank Mogford, Granville Pictor, Alison Rymell were re-elected having been proposed by Peter Scutt and seconded by Sue Wilthew, this was carried by the meeting.

10 Appointment of Auditor

Lee Snyder was re-elected having been proposed by Andrew Bray and seconded by Sue Wilthew, this was carried by the meeting.

11 Any other business

Two amendments to the constitution had been circulated prior to the meeting:

The first related to Section 3 "The Chairman shall hold office for not more than three consecutive years." The meeting's approval to change this to "The Chairman shall hold office for not more than two three-year consecutive periods at a time". This was agreed by the meeting with a more than 75% majority.

The second related to Section 15 "The institution holding the Society's funds is to be instructed that all withdrawals, other than those below two hundred and fifty pounds or transfers between accounts within the same institution, may be made only on the instruction of any two of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer." The meeting's approval to change this to "The institution holding the Society's funds is to be instructed that all withdrawals other than those below five hundred pounds or transfers between accounts within the same institution, may be made only on the instruction of any two of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer." This was agreed by the meeting with a more than 75% majority.

Questions/comment from the floor: Colin Pinchen expressed concern relating to a possible loss of income from the Society. He was perturbed that although WOS had found it necessary to write off an amount of historic stock of badged clothing in 2017, new garments (and pin badges) were now being openly discussed and proposed. He was therefore concerned that we were repeating an historic mistake.

Martin Cook responded that, as explained at last year's meeting, the amount had been "written off" in 2017 as an accounting procedure since so few of the historic remaining garments were being sold and it had been no longer correct to misrepresent their true value in the accounts. These historic garments do however continue to be sold in small and infrequent numbers and the income is included in the accounts.

Regarding the proposed new branded clothing, Martin Cook and Alison Rymell explained that we had learnt from the past and that no more clothing was being bought by WOS for resale. Instead the new clothing items will be ordered directly by members from a shop in Calne, which will fulfil the order on an "as placed" basis with the member at no cost to the Society. This arrangement is not yet fully in place and details will follow shortly.

Pin badges at £2.00 each had become available in the last couple of weeks and would be advertised in WOS News & at meetings.

Rowena Quantrill drew attention to the stand jointly staffed by the **Bradford on Avon** and **Salisbury & Wilton Swift Groups**. The groups are aiming to gain a wider understanding of the status of swifts in Wiltshire. They are inviting people to submit sightings of swifts in the county and to sign up to become either a Swift Volunteer and/or a Swift Champion.

There being no further business the Deputy Chairman closed the formal meeting at 8.15 pm.

AR 12.4.19