

Wiltshire Ornithological Society

2020 AGM Treasurer's report

The distributed accounting figures for 2019 again show a healthy financial position. Total expenditure exceeded income for a further year, but by a smaller margin than in 2018.

Total cash balances are therefore slightly down (-£1k) from 2018, being the nett of a small increase on c£325 in the General Fund and a decrease of c.£1, 325 in Restricted Funds as a whole.

Membership income slightly exceeded costs for the year but mainly due to a donation of £500 from the estate of Mr JHF Brown. Without this there would have been a small deficit for the year on the General Fund.

Total income for the year at £12,256 was higher than 2018 mainly due to a higher level of donations to both General & Restricted Funds.

In addition to the donation mentioned above other significant donations in 2019 came from the Samuel William Farmer Trust, Latton Council and from our participation a local Waitrose donations scheme.

Of note, early in 2020 after the 2019 accounts had closed, WOS received a donation of £670.00 from The Marlborough Downs Nature Enhancement Project towards the new thermal camera fund. This will appear in next year's numbers.

WOS thanks all donors, members and otherwise, of these and all other donations received in the year without which our conservation work, in particular, would be more difficult to fund.

At last year's AGM a Reserves Policy was agreed. I am pleased to report that we continue comfortably to comply with that policy. At the end of 2019 General Reserves were equal to approximately £7k more than both the three and five-year average annual total costs.

I would like to thank members for their positive response to our Gift Aid initiative. Many responses were received and although a significant proportion of these were reconfirming a Gift Aid pledge already made the nett effect should be a worthwhile increase in our Gift Aid recovery from HMRC in future years.

It was reported at last year's AGM that I would not be standing for re-election this year. However, rather than risk leaving the post unoccupied I have offered to stand once more for 2020. Nevertheless, for a number of personal and family reasons mean that I will struggle to contribute as fully as I would like from now on and I can confirm that I will not be standing again next year.

The Society would welcome offers for a replacement, preferably well before next year's AGM, to enable a smooth transfer and handover to take place.

MD Cook

Treasurer