



**MINUTES OF THE 49TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE WILTSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
HELD ON
SATURDAY 13th April 2024 at 2.00 pm
At Langford Lakes, Duck Street, Steeple Langford, Salisbury,
Wiltshire SP3 4NH**

1. Welcome and Apologies:

The Chairman Matt Prior welcomed 34 members to the 49thth Annual General Meeting. Apologies were received from Frank Mogford, Rob Turner, Jonny Cooper, Roy Jennings, Craig Stewart, Linda Cady, Chris Woods, John Osbourne, Rob Blackler, Gareth & Sheila Hawkes, and Jane and Jim Druett.

2. Minutes of 2023 AGM:

The minutes of the 2023 AGM had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members accepted the minutes without comment.

3. Chairman's Address: Matt Prior.

This was Matt Prior's last AGM as Chairman for six years overseeing several positive changes. Youth membership is free, and there is now a presence on social media.

1. Matt thanked the Committee for the work done over the last year.
2. David Little was thanked for his support and work as Secretary and Indoor Meetings via zoom.
3. The pivotal role of Recorder by Paul Castle was praised, and congratulated on his recent appointment to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel.
4. The Editorial Board of Hobby, Paul Castle, Stephen Edwards and Bill Quantrill were thanked for their hard work. Bill has stepped down and was thanked for his many years of hard work.
5. The Records Committee of Rob Turner, Granville Pictor, Kim Milsom and Mark Gurney were thanked for their work on records.
6. There is a new BTO Representative in Wiltshire. Mr. Thomas Oliver.
7. Indoor Meeting post is still vacant, but at present covered by David.
8. Outdoor Meetings: There were 13 held last year, with 143 members attending.
9. The WOS Editorial team of Christine Johnson and Alison Rymell, were thanked for production of a high standard quarterly magazine.
10. WOS has received two bequests this year, from Derek Shaman & Lynne Hallam. The funds will be spent wisely.
11. Conservation: Tree Sparrow population stabilised this year. But winter survival is an issue despite 10 young per pair fledged on Marlborough & Pewsey Downs. Alison Rymell & Jonny Cooper are running the South West Wiltshire feeding project.
12. Membership: Our presence on social media has led to increased membership, now at 507, and junior membership has risen from 12 to 18.
13. Social Media. An Instagram account was set up 18 months ago managed by Izzy Fry & Charlie Murphy. 38 posts have been created with 281 followers. Twitter has 656 followers. Thanks to Izzy & Charlie their hard work.
14. Charlie Murphy supported by his mum Claire have been instrumental in developing our offer to the younger generation, and thanked for all their hard work.

4. Treasurer's Report:

John Lee presented his report to the audience.

5. Recorders Report

Paul Castle read his report to the audience.

6. Election of Chairman:

David Little was elected as Chairman for the coming year.

7. Election Treasurer:

John Lee was formerly elected as Treasurer.

8. Election of Secretary:

David Little was re-elected as Secretary

9. Election of Executive Committee:

Paul Castle was re-elected as deputy chairman.

Graham Deacon, Frank Mogford, Gareth Hawkes, and Jonny Cooper were re-elected to the Committee.

10. Election of Outdoor Meetings Organise: Position Vacant

11. Youth Development & Safeguarding: Claire Murphy & Charlie Murphy were re-elected unanimously.

12. Election of Auditor: John Lee will source an auditor for 2024-5.

13. Any Other Business: Alison Rymell was elected to the Executive Committee

There being no further business the Chairman closed the formal meeting at 2.40pm

DJL 15.04.2024