



MINUTES OF THE 46TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE WILTSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2021
VIA ZOOM

1. Welcome and Apologies:

The Chairman Matt Prior welcomed 43 members to the 46th Annual General Meeting conducted via zoom as a result of the Corona virus pandemic. Apologies were received from John McAllister and Jim Drewitt.

Apologies were received just before the meeting from our guest speaker Benedict Macdonald who was unable to attend due to sudden family illness.

2. Minutes of 2020 AGM:

The minutes of the 2020 AGM had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members accepted the minutes without comment.

3. Chairman's Address: Matt Prior

1. Thanked the Committee for the work done over the last year.
2. Thanked David Little for enabling meetings to continue through the pandemic via zoom.
3. The Editorial Team of WOS News were thanked for their hard work.
4. Claire Jones, the Recorder now has a team working with her, and has done a superb job digitalising the records as recording platforms have changed and WOS is receiving more records than ever.
5. Indoor meeting attendance had declined over years, but holding them via zoom, has proved very successful.
6. Outdoor Meetings started early in the year, but halted in March due to Lockdown.
7. The WOS Editorial team of Christine Johnson, Alison Rymell, Jenny Elvin & Bruce Maxfield were thanked for production of a high standard quarterly magazine. Thanks also to all contributors of articles.
8. Ted Smith the Treasurer was thanked for continuing the high calibre of treasurer for WOS. The accounts are in rude health. Any suggestions for funding help with bird-related projects should be submitted to the committee.
9. Tree Sparrows managed to fledge over 1300 young despite long spells of wet weather.
10. New surveying methods of employing a Thermal Imaging Camera has enabled information about how birds use habitats and provides information to landowners on how to manage their land. Thanks to Marlborough Downs Space for Nature and North Wessex Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for providing most of the funding.
11. Jonny Cooper has started a project to save the Curlew in Wiltshire, planning to obtain more accurate recordings, nest protection and tagging to learn more.
12. The first Wiltshire Birdwatching Day due to be held in April at Langford Lakes had to be cancelled. It is hoped to go ahead next year.
13. Gareth Hawkes was thanked for his work managing the website and continuing to protect it from criminals. Also thanks to Graham Deacon for maintaining the Latest Sightings page which he has done for many years.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Ted Smith presented the report ..

5. Recorders Report:

Matt Prior read Claire Jones's report to the audience.

6. Election of Chairman:

Matt Prior was re-elected as Chairman for the coming year.

7. Election Treasurer:

Ted Smith was re-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.

Andrew Bray, Graham Deacon, Granville Pictor, Frank Mogford, Gareth Hawkes, and Peter Cranswick, Sue Wilthew, Jonny Cooper were re-elected to the Committee.

10. Election of Auditor:

David Marson was accepted as Auditor for 2022.

11. Any Other Business: A question was asked from the floor about the Grapevine. Matt Prior responded by explaining how it functions, and suggested an article should be published in WOS News explaining it to the membership.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the formal meeting at 2000 hours.

DJL 7.10.2021