



Minutes of the 142nd Annual General Meeting of the Hertfordshire Natural History Society

held at 3.45pm on Saturday 4 November 2017 at the offices of Affinity Water, Hatfield.

1: Welcome: HNHS Chair, Agneta Burton welcomed everyone to the AGM, including more than 70 Society members present.

2: Apologies: Robin Cole, Richard Coleman, Chris Dee, Judy England, Jack Fearnside, Val Fullforth, Liz Goodyear, Mike Neale, Jill Saunders, Martin Searle, Linda and Ken Smith, Toby Spall, Gini Trower, Robert Wilson.

With sadness, the deaths during the past year were reported of David Leeming, county recorder for leeches and aquatic molluscs, John Scivyer, former HNHS Secretary, and Alan Stephenson, a long-standing member.

3: Minutes of the 141st AGM held on 8 October 2016 were unanimously agreed as a correct record. *Proposer: John Moss. Seconder: Neale Holmes-Smith.*

4: Matters Arising: none.

5: Report of the Management Committee for 2016/17 – Agneta Burton introduced the report, which had previously been published in the 2017 *Hertfordshire Naturalist* and circulated to members. Highlights included:

- Publication of Andrew Wood's book *Butterflies of Hertfordshire and Middlesex*
- Continuing work on the mammals, amphibians and reptiles atlas (MARA) project
- Planning for 'digitisation' of the Society's Transactions going back to 1875, to create a searchable, online record of every Herts Naturalist and Herts Bird Report
- A significant upgrade to the Birds Club website, including an improved system for online record submissions.
- Taking the Festival of Wildlife out of doors over two days at Panshanger Park in July 2016 in partnership with HMWT and Tarmac plc attended by 1,000 people.
- Increased HNHS membership: from 449 to 463.

6: Annual Accounts for 2016/17 – The Treasurer, Peter Tallantire, presented summary accounts, as published in the *Hertfordshire Naturalist 2017*. These showed gross income of £31,426 compared with £29,269 in the previous year. This included book sales of around £10,000. Gross expenditure was £26,281 compared with £14,133 the previous year. The increase was attributable to costs of publishing *Butterflies of Hertfordshire and Middlesex*. Cash funds at the end of March 2017 stood at £43,912.

The Society's day-to-day running costs were little changed from 2015/16, suggesting no need to raise membership subscriptions. The Management Committee had confirmed its policy of maintaining reserves equivalent to 18 months of the Society's running costs. In reply to a question about digitising of the Society's Transactions, the Treasurer confirmed that funds were available from recent legacies.

The accounts were unanimously adopted. *Proposer: David Johnson. Seconder: John Davis.*

7: Election of Officers and members of the Management Committee for 2017/18 – The following officers and members were unanimously elected unopposed: Chair, Agneta Burton; Secretary, David Utting; Treasurer, Peter Tallantire. Members: Ian

Carle, Ronni Edmonds-Brown, Judy England, Jack Fearnside, Alan Gardiner, Joe Gray, Chantal Helm, Tim Hill, Trevor James and Virginia Kennard.

It was noted that Agneta Burton, Peter Tallantire, David Utting, Ronni Edmonds-Brown, Ian Carle, Alan Gardiner, Tim Hill, Chantal Helm and Trevor James would continue to serve as the charity's Trustees.

Proposer: Christine Shepperson. Seconder: Stuart Downhill.

8: Proposed constitutional amendment – a Management Committee amendment to the HNHS constitution, requiring the Annual General Meeting to take place in the autumn, was withdrawn. Since tabling, a similar amendment had been discovered, passed at the 2007 AGM. The full text of the constitution, dating from 2002, would be updated accordingly.

9: Other business – none

The meeting closed at 4.04pm.

David Utting
HNHS Secretary

Approved by the 2018 Annual General Meeting. 3 November 2018