

**Minutes of the 145<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Hertfordshire Natural  
History Society  
held online at 11am on Saturday 28 November 2020**

1: Welcome: HNHS Chair, Peter Tallantire welcomed 60 Society members to the AGM which – due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic – took place online. He thanked Dan Fletcher for ‘hosting’ the meeting using Zoom software.

2: Apologies: Michael and Anna Clark, John Davis, Richard Dyster, Andrew Fotheringham, Monica Knaggs, Brian Legg, Ian Mackenzie, Alan Outen, Christine and Bill Shepperson, George Stodulski, Rodney Tucker, Brian Warren. (Two members submitted proxy votes for the AGM resolutions that were cast for them by the Chair)

3: Minutes of the 144<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 9 November 2019 were agreed (*nem con*) as a correct record. *Proposer: Clifford Smout. Secunder: Ian Denholm.*

4: Matters Arising: none.

5: Report of the Management Committee for 2019/20 – Peter Tallantire introduced the report, which had previously been published in the 2020 *Hertfordshire Naturalist* and also circulated online to members. Main points included:

- The sad death in June 2020 of Trevor James. Trevor’s contribution to the Society’s work was immense. He was recorder for both Flora and Coleoptera for more than 40 years and a generous sharer of his knowledge and field skills. It was fitting he received the British Empire Medal in the New Year honours for services to Hertfordshire natural history. The Society was deeply grateful to Trevor and to his wife Chris for a generous legacy of £5,000. The management committee was working on ideas for commemorating Trevor once the Covid emergency was over, but it was pleased to announce that the 1875 Award for an Outstanding Hertfordshire Naturalist would be re-named ‘The Trevor James Award’ from next year.
- The Society was also sorry to record the death of Pryce Buckle, a former HNHS Secretary, Treasurer and long-time county Mollusc recorder and Brian Sawford, a former HNHS President, author of *Butterflies of Hertfordshire* (1987) and keeper of the natural history section at North Hertfordshire Museum.
- The Society’s digitised archive of *Transactions* dating back to 1875 went ‘live’ on the website in the summer. Thanks go to Ian Carle for overseeing and project and to volunteers who proof-read the scanned *Transactions*.
- Thanks go to Rupert Evershed and the Herts Bird Club task group for continuing work to safeguard Hertfordshire’s last Tree Sparrows and other ‘Red Listed’ wildlife on land near Tyttenhanger gravel pits, which Hertsmere Council has earmarked for housing development.
- Despite the Covid crisis, the *Hertfordshire Naturalist 2020* and the *Hertfordshire Bird Report 2019* were published on schedule. Congratulations go to editors, Judy England and Clifford Smout and their editorial teams. The *Herts Naturalist* included a reminder that the Society’s collection of rare botanical books is of national importance and kept by University College London’s library where it can be viewed by prior request.
- Lockdown in the spring in response to the pandemic inhibited the Society’s survey work. The survey of mammals, amphibians and reptiles was extended to 2021 while the start of a planned survey of dragonflies was postponed .
- HNHS membership fell back a little below its previous peak of 480 to 469

The Management Committee report was approved (*nem con*). *Proposer: Linda Smith. Secunder: Peter Delaloye.*

6: Annual Accounts for 2019/20 – Dan Fletcher, the Treasurer, presented accounts that had been previously circulated to members. He thanked Peter Tallantire, his predecessor as Treasurer, for helping to compile them. The management committee had decided to cease publishing draft accounts in the *Hertfordshire Naturalist* before they were approved by the AGM. At the start of April 2020, the Society held total funds of £85,586 compared with £98,673 the previous year. This was made up of £43,427 that was immediately accessible and £42,159 in an investment fund. Payments during the year of £15,536 exceeded income of £14,562, but this reflected a cycle of upfront payments for publications that would be recouped over a longer period through sales. Subscription income continued to be good. Healthy reserves meant the Society was in a better position during the global pandemic than many other charities. The Management Committee saw no need to increase subscriptions in 2021.

The accounts were unanimously adopted (*nem con*). *Proposer: Ken Smith. Seconder: Tricia Moxey*

7: Election of Officers and members of the Management Committee for 2020/21– The following officers and members were elected (*nem con*): Chair, Peter Tallantire; Secretary, David Utting; Treasurer, Dan Fletcher. Members: Agneta Burton, Ian Carle, Ronni Edmonds-Brown, Judy England, Rupert Evershed, Jack Fearnside, Alan Gardiner, Chantal Helm, Geoff Hill, Tim Hill and Jenny Rawson.

Peter Tallantire, David Utting, Dan Fletcher, Agneta Burton, Ronni Edmonds-Brown, Rupert Evershed, Ian Carle, Alan Gardiner, Tim Hill and Chantal Helm would also serve as the charity's Trustees.

*Proposer: Claudia Harflett. Seconder: Stuart Warrington.*

8: Other business – none

The meeting closed at 11.24am.

**David Utting**  
**HNHS Secretary**