

Chichester Natural History Society

Minutes from the 60th Annual General Meeting Held on November 2nd 2022 At The Pallant Suite, Chichester

Present: Christian Hance (Chair), Jim Bagley (President), David Hart (Treasurer), Sarah Hall (Secretary), Helen Dignum (Newsletter and Webmaster), Heather Hart (Membership Secretary), Linda Smith (Indoor Meetings), Denise Bowerman (Pub Meetings), Gillian Hance (Outdoor Meetings), Terry Timblich (Publicity)

There were 41 members present.

Apologies for Absence:

Ann Griffiths and Jenny Ettienne.

Minutes for the AGM held on November 3rd 2021.

All Present approved of the minutes for the meeting held last year.

Proposer: Rod Wildman

Secunder: Linda Smith

Chairmans Annual Report.

I am very pleased to present this report on our active, friendly and knowledgeable Society.

In total the Society ran over 30 events (8 indoor meetings, 10 field outings, 3 moth events, 5 Medmerry surveys & 5 pub lunches) since the last AGM, and I would like to thank all the committee for their efforts in running the Society. I am so impressed with this high level of activity, combined with the preparedness of members to share their expertise, so that all participants attending events, can enjoy the wonders of the natural world around us.

Our diverse evening lectures covered such topics as the Management of Invasive species, the Impact of Climate Change on our Wildlife, Sussex Plants and Botanists, the Knepp Re-wilding project and Woodpeckers. I am pleased that we are now averaging over 50 members attending each evening event, getting back towards pre-pandemic levels of attendance. I would like to thank Linda Smith for organising the speakers and Sylvia Gill, plus others, for providing the refreshments.

We have also continued to organise trips to observe our local fauna and flora. These have included enjoyable field outings to Levin Down, Hunston Copse, the White Stork Project at Knepp and a Seal Safari round Chichester Harbour. Alongside these, we ran several mothing mornings where members were able to enjoy identifying moths collected from members' gardens - it's always amazing how many moths of different species are collected. In addition, our Medmerry surveys are in the 9th year and we continue to build a good record of the succession of species into this newly created habitat. My thanks to Gill Hance, Tony Burnand, Philippa Arnott and all field outing leaders for their efforts in making these events a success. All images accompanying this talk were taken at Chi Nats events this year.

Members have also enjoyed the social atmosphere of our pub discussions, where members get together over lunch to hear a short talk and to discuss a wildlife topic. Topics covered have included Bee Keeping and Farming in Bosham.

Our Phenology study of local wildlife continues, we now have records stretching back over 15 years. The changes in natural events that have occurred during this short period of time are both fascinating and worrying. The results for the 2022 study will be published on the website later this year.

Individual members have continued to observe nature using some of the equipment that we were able to fund using the legacy monies we received. Regular use has been made of the automatic bat detector, the trail camera, tree height measurer and the handheld bat detector.

Our total membership is 164, an increase of 5 from last year. As I said at the start, we are an active society with members playing many different parts in making us successful. I am very pleased to welcome Claire Locke & Viv Goodridge onto the committee, they have already started to provide valuable input at our committee meetings. Each year we need new people to step forward and to take on some of the roles running the Society. None of these roles is very onerous, but they all need doing. Unfortunately, this year we were unable to find a replacement treasurer and chair. Both David Hart & I have already served 6 years in our roles and according to the Society's rules, we should stand down this year. To remain vibrant and relevant the Society needs new perspectives and ideas, and we also need to share the work of running the Society. To avoid a crisis, our Society must always have the roles of Treasurer, Chair and Secretary filled. Consequently, David has agreed to stay on the committee for 1 more year and I will serve for another two years. But this is just a stop gap, in the coming year we need to find not only a new Treasurer but also Webmaster and Newsletter editor. If you are interested in any of these roles, please speak to one of the committee members.

In summary, we have had an active, interesting, and varied year. I look forward to the coming year with optimism and excitement - especially if we can find people to join the committee!

The Honourable Treasurer's Report.

The Society has finished the financial year in a very strong position. Receipts over expenditure have left us in a credit of £1,049. This is a result of fewer indoor meetings and a cancelled Christmas party last year!

Membership has held up well and has increased a little. Gift Aid receipts amounted to £243.

The Projects account has not been used this year, so the final accounts are as follows:

Current Account	£5,866
Project Account	£5,709
Cash in Hand	£61
Total	£11,636

Proposer: Maria Wildman
Seconder: Suzanne Piner

Vote to change Rule 7 of the Society's rules on election and retirement of Officers and Ordinary Members of the Committee

It was proposed to change rule 7 to read that Officers and committee members shall serve three consecutive years with an option at the end of this time to be elected to serve further terms if willing and if approved by the Society.

Proposer: Terry Timblich
Seconder: Helen Dignum
Vote: Unanimous agreement

Election of President.

The President is elected annually and Jim Bagley has agreed to continue as President.

Proposer: Christian Hance
Seconder: Brian Hopkins

Election of the Independent Financial Adviser.

Richard Fisk has agreed to continue in the role of Independent Financial Advisor.

Proposer: David Hart
Seconder: John Kelsall

Election of the Committee.

Secretary: Claire Locke will take over as Secretary.

Proposer: Sylvia Gill
Seconder: Dee Bowerman

Membership Secretary: Viv Goodridge will take over as Membership Secretary

Proposer: Rod Wildman
Seconder: Brian Hopkins

Publicity Officer: Terry Timblich will continue in his role for one more year.

Re-Elect the Treasurer

Treasurer: David Hart will continue for one more year.

Proposer: Christian Hance
Seconder: Rod Wildman

Re-Elect the Chairman

Chairman: Christian Hance will continue as Chair for two more years.

Proposer: Ken Smith
Seconder: Brian Hopkins

Final Comment.

After a good year we are almost back to normal. It was agreed to recognise John Kelsall for all his work for the Society and he was presented with a framed certificate honouring him with as an Honourary Member of the Society.