

Chichester Natural History Society

Minutes from the 63rd Annual General Meeting held on 5 November 2025 at The Pallant Suite, Chichester

Committee members present: Christian Hance (Chairman), Ian Barnett (Treasurer), Claire Locke (Secretary), Viv Goodridge (Membership Secretary), Linda Smith (Indoor Meetings) and Gillian Hance (Outdoor Meetings)

There were 32 members present.

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM. Apologies for absence were received from: Nick & Elisabeth Sturt, Rodney & Maria Wildman, David & Heather Hart, Peter Lee and Linda Kelsall-Barnett.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 6 November 2024

No requests for amendments were received, so Ken Smith proposed and Jim Bagley seconded, that the 2024 AGM Minutes should be approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Chairman's Annual Report

Christian gave his report as follows:

I am very honoured to be reporting on the Society's activities of 2025. Yet again, we have been active in surveying the local area's wildlife, whilst also providing informative and interesting evening meetings. This would not have been possible without the efforts of many members. I am always grateful that so many people step forward to assist in a range of different ways.

Our field outings have continued to enable us to record and observe amazing wildlife in our local area. The twelve outings have included: rock pooling on the beach, where we found Slipper Limpets, Strawberry Anemones and Masked Crabs; a walk to see some beautiful orchids on Bampton Down and a great exploration of the wild plants in Chichester City Centre. All of our sightings are recorded on iRecord. In addition to observing our local wildlife, I have found the field outings where we had the conservation management techniques described very interesting e.g. Cobnor and North Wood. I would like to thank Gill Hance for organising these and to each member who led an outing.

The variety of our evening meetings has encouraged large numbers of members and non-members to attend. I particularly enjoyed the talk on spiders, an order of arthropods which gets surprisingly little attention, and learning about the wildlife of Wisconsin. The talk on Beavers probably brought in the largest audience, whilst the photos and videos of large mammals seen around the world in unexpected places, clearly deserves to win an award!!! Many thanks to Linda Smith for organising these. The committee is aware that after the first two evening meetings each autumn, when people are getting used to attending the talks, we have a break of two months when we have the AGM one month, followed by the Christmas Party. This doesn't feel entirely correct so the committee are looking at moving the Christmas party no actually, we are looking at moving the date of the AGM. More on this at a later date.

Our morning outings continued to be popular, revealing the unexpected inhabitants of our gardens, for which we are very grateful to the members who hosted us and to Tony Burnand for being so patient with our inept identification! Alongside this, our members made use of the Society's equipment to observe bats and to capture nocturnal animals in their gardens using our camera trap.

Whilst slightly down from last year our membership is nearly 150, including several new members.

To conclude, can I please thank my committee for all their hard work in running the Society. In addition, as I mentioned earlier, there are numerous members who help e.g. serving refreshments at our meetings, maintaining the website, producing the Newsletter, running the raffle at our Christmas party, advertising and many other activities. My thanks to them all.

4. Treasurer's Report

Ian gave his report as follows:

I am pleased to report that the Society is in good financial health and able to fund its ongoing activities.

As per the Society rules the financial transactions have been independently examined by the firm of Carpenter Box and verified as accurate.

Our overall income is slightly up on 2024 due to two years worth of Gift Aid although membership income is slightly down. Memberships at 4/9/25 were 111, memberships at 9/9/24 were 123.

Expenditure for the year included a one off cost for inbound email and domain name migration of £456. Beyond that our expenses covered speaker's fees, room hire, insurance, audit fees, website costs and sundry expenses.

We made two donations during the year from our legacy funds. £260 to Tuppenny Barn which was used to purchase materials used in the education of young people about the natural world. £100 to the Friends of St. Mary's Churchyard to help in maintaining this historic churchyard as a nature reserve.

Treasurer's report:

•	General Society	
•	Income	£2253
•	Expenditure	£1991
•	Surplus	£262
•	Legacy Projects	
•	Income	£0
•	Expenditure	£360
	Deficit	£360
•	Deficit for all activities	£98

As at 30/09/2025:

•	Cash and Bank balances	£12827
•	Represented by:	
•	General current account	£7261
•	Project current account	£5511
	Cash	£55

Terry Timblick asked whether we are receiving interest on the money held in the accounts. Ian advised a small amount but he will review this. Terry also suggested whether donations to Northwood and Brandy Hole Copse could be considered. Christian thought both were a good idea but pointed out that Northwood had received previous support but stressed anyone can come forward to the Society with ideas as to how the Legacy funds should be spent.

No requests for amendments were received, so Terry Timblick proposed and Helen Dignum seconded, that the Treasurer's report should be accepted.

5. Election of President

The Chairman explained that the President is elected annually and that the Committee would like to propose that Jim Bagley should continue in his role. There were no objections or alternative nominations, so it was proposed by Chris Harvey and seconded by John Arnold, that Jim should continue as President.

Jim then thanked the Chair and the Committee for their nomination, and members for their support, in his 6th year as President.

6. The election of the Secretary

The Chairman explained that in accordance with the Rules of the Society a Secretary needed to be elected again this year and indicated that in the absence of any other nominations, Claire Locke was happy to stand for re-election. As there were no objections or alternative nominations, it was proposed by Paula Chatfield and seconded by Daphne Flack, that Claire should continue as Secretary.

7. The election of the Membership Secretary

The Chairman again explained that in accordance with the Rules of the Society a Membership Secretary needed to be elected again this year and indicated that in the absence of any other nominations, Viv Goodridge was happy to stand for re-election. As there were no objections or alternative nominations, it was proposed by Ken Smith and seconded by Helen Dignum, that Viv should continue as Membership Secretary.

8. Election of the Independent Examiner

As indicated above David Knight of Carpenter Box has previously taken on the role of the Independent Examiner and this continuing appointment was proposed by Linda Smith and seconded by Jamie Wood.