

CHICHESTER NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE 57TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2019 AT THE PALLANT SITE, CHICHESTER FREEMASONS HALL, SOUTH PALLANT, CHICHESTER

Present: David Hart (Treasurer), Lesley Mann (Secretary), Helen Dignum (Indoor Meetings), John Kelsall (Newsletter/Website), Daphne Flach (Publicity), Heather Hart (Membership).

46 members attended.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Christian & Gill Hance and Roger & Judy Smith.

2 Minutes of the AGM held on 7th November 2018

Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Maria Wildman and seconded by Linda Smith. There were no matters arising.

3 The Chairman's Annual Report was read by Helen Dignum.

Firstly, let me apologise for missing the Society's AGM. Gill and I are lucky enough to be travelling in southern Argentina this evening, so unfortunately we can't really get back ! However the Society is very fortunate to have a strong committee and I am therefore confident that my fellow committee members will run the meeting well.

The Society had another successful year.

We had 14 field outings including trips to Hollybank Woods, Levin Down and also to see the continuing development of the North Wood at National Trust Slindon. I really enjoyed our trip to Iping Common, where I hadn't been before. We saw a very interesting range of animals and plants including a beautiful silver studded blue butterfly, a fascinating slow worm and some noisy yellowhammers.

Our evening meetings covered a wide and diverse range of topics. I particularly enjoyed the talk on Bumblebees as I had no idea there were so many different species, with widely varying life cycles.

The pub meetings, for detailed discussion on specific topics, have remained popular and provide a great forum to learn about our Natural History.

Our projects, funded by legacies, have continued this year.

- We completed putting up the Swift boxes and look forward to hearing when they get used.
- Our laser height finder has been used to survey trees in both Chichester and West Dean woods
- Our new portable bat recorder has provided another dimension to our automated bat recorder, which continues to provide very interesting results.
- A number of members have enjoyed seeing what our wildlife camera captured in their gardens.
- We completed our work helping a number of local primary schools develop wildlife areas
- We are initiating a nature writing competition for schools

Our Medmerry surveys continue to generate interesting data and we published a paper in the *Adastra* journal describing our results so far. Whilst this was exciting, the highlight was undoubtedly when the Society recorded the first appearance in Sussex of a Norfolk Hawker dragonfly. The evening lecture on the development of the Medmerry reserve helped emphasise the importance of these surveys. All members, experts or beginners, are welcome to attend as it's a great way to learn how to identify plants and animals and to contribute to a strong scientific record.

The size of the society membership remains stable, however we are always keen to attract new members, so please bring your friends along ! This year we have 146 members including 9 new joiners.

Most impressive of all though are the members who help run the Society ... who all deserve to be thanked

These include :

- Experts leading our field outings
- People providing the tea/ coffees at our evening events
- Members talking at pub events and at our evening meetings
- Leaders for our legacy projects
- And finally - but by no means the least ! - My fellow committee members who work tirelessly to run the society.

It's great, when we have so many people doing their individual parts in making the Society successful.

I remain very excited at what our Society does and, if re-elected as chairman, look forward to another 3 years.

4 The Hon Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer pointed out that the slight increase in Membership Fees last year accounted for an extra £230 in subscriptions which then allowed him to claim an extra £43.50 in Gift Aid, bringing the Gift Aid total to £216, total income for the year being £1952.50.

On the payment side of the accounts, Lecture costs had increased quite significantly but the Treasurer stressed this was a good thing as the Society needs to attract quality speakers. Room hire and insurance had been kept at the same cost for the last two years. Printing, post and stationery had increased due to the purchase of badges and car stickers. Subscriptions and donations were up due to the donation given in memory of Rosemary Marshall to her favourite charity. Total expenditure for the year was £1955.12, a deficit over income of £2.62.

Project expenditure came to a total of £3055.42, when added to the £2.62 deficit from the general Current Account made a total of £3058.04. This sum now being deducted from Cash and Bank Balances 1st October 2018 showed a Cash and Bank Balances at 30th September 2019 of £10,180.20.

Represented by General Current Account	3055.47
Project Current Account	7064.23
Cash in Hand	<u>60.50</u>
	10,180.20

The Committee have always felt that the General Current Account should be kept at around the £3000 which we have achieved again this year.

Finally sincere thanks were expressed to Richard Fisk for acting as the Independent Examiner and to John Kelsall for his IT expertise.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Jim Bagley and seconded by Helen Dignum.

5 Election of President

The Committee was delighted that Jim Bagley had agreed to stand as President and his election was proposed by John Kelsall and seconded by Maria Wildman.

6 Election of Committee

- John Herring proposed Christian Hance be re-elected as Chairman; seconded by Brian Hopkins
- Maria Wildman proposed David Hart be re-elected as Treasurer; seconded by Sylvia Gill
- Linda Smith proposed Sarah Hall be elected as Secretary; seconded by Sylva Gill

- John Kelsall proposed Terry Timblich be elected as Publicity Officer; seconded by Daphne Flach

7 **Election of Independent Examiner**

Rod Wildman proposed Richard Fisk be re-elected as Independent Financial Examiner; seconded by Sarah Hall.

8 **AOB**

There was no other business