



SUSSEX ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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13th April 2019

Minutes of the Fifty-seventh ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the members of the SUSSEX ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY held at the Adastra Hall, Hassocks, on Saturday 13 April 2019, at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT: 45 Members with the President Alan Perry in the Chair.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from 13 members including Chair of Council.

- 1 THE MINUTES OF THE 56TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING were approved by the members present. We are grateful to all the points raised for discussion by a member prior to this AGM. We will be making the minutes of this AGM available to members once they have been approved by Council. They will be viewable on the website along with the Rules of the Society.
- 2 The REPORT OF COUNCIL, previously circulated to members, was presented by Alan Perry, President, and adopted by the meeting. The apologies of the retiring Chair of Council Sue Walsh were noted. Alan congratulated all those who had contributed to the varied work of the Society throughout 2018.

Alan reminded us of the many and varied work of SOS committees and members throughout 2018; including organising the Bird Race which raised £2,739.98 (including Gift Aid); putting together an excellent and informative SOS Conference; the strengthening and consolidation of Richard Cowser's Conservation team; the addition of almost 320,000 bird records to the SOS database; the presentation of society awards recognising outstanding performance and long continuous service; the provision of a comprehensive programme of walks and outings, and the development of a superb website; just to mention a few. Membership again stands at just under 2000 members.

- 3 The ACCOUNTS, as agreed by the Examiners', along with the EXAMINERS' REPORT; were adopted by the meeting. Alan Perry (Treasurer) gratefully acknowledged the assistance of Ted Merrikin throughout the year. He confirmed that the finances of the Society remain in a very healthy position, with our bank accounts holding £135,184.60 at this date. We continue to support various projects, although you should note that some money shown in accounts as allocated has not yet have been claimed. Since 1972, the Society has contributed a massive £345,807 towards deserving projects, which is a fantastic achievement.

Alan thanked those members now paying their subscriptions by standing order as this saves us a huge amount of time. We are also pleased to record that £5,236 has been raised in Gift Aid during 2018. To date our gift aid total stands at £4,554, with more to come throughout the year. Alan then resigned from the post of Treasurer.

- 4 ELECTION OF OFFICERS – The following Honorary Officers, being eligible without nomination, were re-elected ; Alan Perry (President), Chris Davis (Secretary), Dr Richard Black (Surveys and Projects Officer), Richard Cowser (Conservation Officer), Anthony Holden (Newsletter Editor), Mark Mallalieu (Recorder), Dr Peter Plant (Sussex Bird Report Editor), and Robert Yarham (Press and Publicity).
- 5 ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL – The following members of Council, being eligible without nomination, were re-elected; Jonathan Cook, Chris Lowmass, Graeme Lyons and Mike Russell.

Ted Merrikin, nominated by Jonno Cook, seconded by Mark Mallalieu, was elected as Treasurer.

Jon Curson, nominated by Chris Davis, seconded by Neil Greenaway; and Mya Bambrick nominated by Val Bentley, seconded by Mike Russell were elected as Members of Council.

RETIRING MEMBERS OF COUNCIL – Sue Walsh (Chair of Council) and Alison Giacomelli were

6 thanked by Alan Perry for their huge contribution to the activities of SOS. Alan then explained that Mike Russell has offered himself for election to the position of Chair of Council for 2019-20 subject to the agreement by vote from Council Members at the May 2019 meeting.

7 APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINERS – The Examiners were thanked for their work on the 2018 Accounts. Under rule 14, Andrew Stringer and Tom Snow were appointed as Examiners of the Accounts for 2019.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 15:10.

8 Following a break for refreshments and the raffle, Nic Scothern (Regional Director of RSPB) gave an excellent talk outlining the present and future activities of RSPB in our local area; which included discussion of how priorities are likely to change in the future. The talk included grateful acknowledgement of the huge contribution SOS have made towards local conservation projects.

Profits from the raffle were	£91.00
Donations for refreshments	£17.65
Merchandise totalled	<u>£53.00</u>
Overall total	<u>£161.65</u>