

Treasurer's Report for Shoreham District Ornithological Society Annual General Meeting on 8th March 2022

Report on the accounts for the **year ended 31st December 2021**.

These papers are provided in advance of the AGM to all members with e-mail addresses and by post to members without email addresses. If e-mail addresses are available this minimises our society's postage and stationery expenses, especially as costs continue to rise.

Accompanying the 2021 accounts, which include explanatory notes, this report comments on significant features concerning income and expenditure.

With the exception of donations which are set aside for special projects, our income is solely from subscription income at the present time in the absence of indoor meetings when raffle income is possible. Whilst subscription income from an increased membership is higher, this has been offset by **increased ongoing costs** which are:

For **information technology**: annual fees for our new website and database. Also, during Covid-19, we have paid fees for a Zoom facility and an AGM voting system.

Postage Beside stamp costs increasing this has risen as collection and hand delivery of mail by members attending indoor meetings has not been possible. Some post has been hand delivered locally for which volunteers are thanked.

Hire of Hall - a future cost increase.

No 2021 cost is shown for hall hire due to Covid-19 restrictions. £140 was refunded of the sum paid in advance in 2020.

St Peter's Church Hall is no longer available. A new hall is in prospect but will cost more.

Subscription income needs to cover the cost of servicing membership commitments including evening meeting speakers, insurance and, in normal times, the hire of a hall. As Treasurer, once 2022 subscription collection is completed and the new hall hire cost confirmed, I will be reviewing the financial position to assess the required future subscription amount which has not changed since 2006.

Subscription income is higher as, for several years, our membership was peaking at 200 whereas it was 227 at the time of last year's AGM and is currently 258 members (*7 February*) of which **18 renewal subscriptions are awaited**.

Your Treasurer continues to closely control costs. Fortunately, our reserve balance, which ordinarily would fund special projects, has enabled us to cover expenditure over-runs caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In June 2020 there was a one-off fee for setting up our Facebook site. This had attracted much interest with 409 members by last year's AGM in March 2021. A year on there are 775 members (*7 February*). Several have subsequently been welcomed as new Society members.

The balance carried forward on 31st December 2021 is £8,301.26. About £2,500 of this is required to cover membership commitments. Providing membership numbers are maintained at the current level our financial position overall is healthy and membership fees can continue at the current rates for 2022 but are subject to review for future years.

Thank you for your continuing support, and finally, my thanks go to David Titcomb for examining the accounts. David is agreeable to continuing as accounts examiners for another year.