

# SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held by Zoom On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Kevin Midgeley, Laura Brook, Marie Sansford, Tricia Hall, Christine Bohea, Jay Cooper, Colin Day, Steven Lawless, Val Bullen, Kate Shearer, Reg Bradbury, Gordon Tickler</p> <p><b>Members Present:</b> 48</p> <p><b>Members participating in ballot:</b> 73</p> <p>*Historically voting has been by a show of hands at the AGM. As this was held via Zoom this was not possible this year. Papers for the AGM were circulated in advance of the meeting either electronically or by post. A Ballot system was arranged with the option of electronic voting following the AGM or postal vote. Results were collated and are reflected in the minutes below.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Chairman's Report</b></p> <p>This was circulated prior to the meeting. Thanks were given at the meeting to Council members for the large amounts of time put in to surveys, membership packs, outings, newsletters, accounts etc. Also, thanks were given to Val Bentley for her work on the Garden Birdwatch scheme.</p> <p>Particular thanks were extended to Peter Wyld who has worked so hard on getting Zoom up and running and on the new webpage. Also, to Bernie standing down from Council and Presidency after 18 years. No-one has done more for the Society – volunteering to lead walks, build seats, saying 'let's solve this problem'. He is known and loved by all. Dorian too was championed for hours of dedication in organising the walks programme for many years and for his excellent photos shared in Newsletters etc.</p> <p>There were no questions raised about the report.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Treasurer's Report and Accounts</b></p> <p>This was circulated prior to the meeting. An updated membership figure of 227 was shared, of which 13 remain unpaid. These will be sent final reminders with the next newsletter. It was noted that many of these would normally have paid at indoor meetings which have not been possible this year due to the pandemic. Facebook membership has also increased by 90 since the report was prepared in January, and some of these have also joined the society. A promotional card which has been produced was shown to attendees. Recruitment of new and younger members is important to provide future council members, walk leaders etc, and income from members covers costs of IT, speakers, newsletter etc.</p> <p>There is a balance of around £6000 available to spend. Nestboxes at local sites have recently been installed and examples of funding in previous years include contributions towards seats installed in the countryside, information panels at Widewater and fencing at Cissbury. There are a number of local conservation projects brewing and there may be opportunities to contribute to these going forward.</p> <p>A question was raised prior to the meeting regarding dates of the financial year. It was clarified that the accounting year runs from January to December.</p> <p>A further suggestion was made by Mike Dixon regarding possible investment in</p>

	<p>Facebook advertising to target a wider audience. Council feel Facebook is working well but agreed this could be looked into. It is being used as a tool to generate membership.</p> <p>The Accounts were approved by ballot.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Appointment of Examiners</b></p> <p>A huge thank you was extended to David Titcomb who has agreed to continue as accounts examiner.</p> <p>This appointment was approved by ballot.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Changes to Rules</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rules were circulated prior to the meeting together with Aims and Objectives. Feedback was received prior to the AGM resulting in the following clarifications which were circulated to members on 19/3:  <i>Rules: The financial year is the calendar year and a financial report will be presented annually at the AGM.</i>  <i>Aims: The term 'area of focus' in aim 1 and 2 will be replaced by the term 'Society's recording area' which was used in the Objectives section.</i></li> </ul> <p>Roger explained the current Rules have been in place for a long time and are rather partial in terms of their coverage. They have been updated to cover additional areas such as financial management, data protection, Health and Safety etc. which were not previously mentioned. The language has also been simplified and updated to use less 'legalese' and reflect current practice. The process of review has helped Council to clarify procedures. The Objectives were included in the original Rules document and these have now been taken out to form a new, clearer set of 'Aims and Objectives' document. Council will be working further to ensure there is clarity around the society's aims or aspirations and the objectives towards meeting these aims.</p> <p>There were no further questions about rules. The Treasurer had already addressed the point regarding financial year dates.</p> <p>The Rules were approved by ballot.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Election of Chair:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audrey Wende has stood down as Chairman and from Council.</li> <li>• Tony Benton had agreed to take on the role of Chair. He was proposed by Dr Jacky Woolcock and seconded by Christine Bohea.</li> <li>• Tony extended a Vote of Thanks to Audrey on behalf of Council and members for her fantastic service and stewardship as Chair.</li> <li>• He shared a little information about himself, highlighting 3 passions he would bring to the role if elected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A passionate daily birder, finding them fascinating and awe inspiring</li> <li>• Talking about birds and conservation, seeking to enthuse about birds and help people to connect with nature. This includes public engagement events and use of Facebook as additional vehicles to communicate</li> <li>• Volunteering ethos - roles have included FOSB, RSPB, Friends of Preston Park and other organisations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Tony was elected as Chair.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Election of Treasurer:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tim Holter was elected to continue as Treasurer.</li> </ul>

7	<p><b>Election of Secretary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sue Miles was elected to continue in the post of Secretary.</li> </ul>
8	<p><b>Election of Council Members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following Council Members were happy to stand for re-election:  Minutes Secretary: Jenny Holter  IT Co-ordinator: Peter Wyld  Newsletter Editor: Roger Smith  Member without Portfolio: Clive Hope  Outings Co-ordinator: Richard Nowak</li> </ul> <p>These members were all elected to Council.</p> <p>Rebecca Parangi was nominated for Council by Dr J Newman and seconded by Audrey Wende.</p> <p>Becky gave a brief introduction: She will be known to some members as she has attended both indoor and outdoor meetings and is often out birding by the river. She is fairly new to birdwatching, being introduced to this hobby about 3 years ago and is in awe of discovering new species, and learning songs etc. She is a trainee bird ringer for BTO, working with John Newnham and others at Ladywell. She is at the beginning of her journey but thinks this will be her life for many years. Becky is keen to represent people and to have a new voice on council and hopes to learn from everyone as well.</p> <p>Becky was elected to Council as a new Member without Portfolio.</p>
	<p>Brianne Reeve will take on the non-executive role of President. She is representing SDOS on the Rampion consultation.</p>
9	<p><b>AOB: (questions not covered during the meeting)</b></p> <p>Prior to the meeting Mike Dixon made a helpful suggestion to recruit to council someone under 19 or someone to hold that portfolio. Tony clarified that under the new aims and objectives, there is lots of scope under community engagement to pursue this idea. This is something Council are already aware of and will be looking at.</p> <p>Penny Lloyd had asked about recruitment from Facebook to SDOS and making greater use of the website to inform novices, particularly regarding locations. Jenny responded that the society were generally pleased with recruitment from Facebook, but the restrictions on outings and public engagement events had impacted on the building of relationships and opportunities for further promotional activities to supplement this. Plans are in hand to review the website map of locations to try to make this more accessible and the possibility of a FAQs page will be explored.</p> <p>John Maskell asked whether it would be possible to reinstate the Annual Report. Audrey explained there were not sufficient personnel or resources willing to undertake this extensive work. Val Bentley confirmed that many of the features from the Annual Report had been incorporated into the enhanced bi-annual Newsletters.</p>
	<p><b>Meeting Closed</b></p>

