



**Minutes of the Annual
Tuesday 11th April 2023 at**

**General Meeting held on
7.30 p.m.**

at the Maltings Ditchingham Bungay.

Present:

Officers: Mark Broughton (MB), John Garbutt (JG), Rebecca Bedwell (RB), Vivienne Broughton (VB), Helen Gooderham (HG), Leslie Cuthbert (LC), Cheryl Deeks (CD) and Robert Flindall (RF)

There were also approximately 20 club members.

1. Welcome and Apologies

1. The Chairman welcomed everybody and apologies were received from Steve Piotrowski, Chris McIntyre, Sue Alderman and Roger Walsh.

2. Minutes of the AGM 2022

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3.1 Minutes of the SGM (10.01.2023)

- 3.2 The minutes of the SGM were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matter Arising not elsewhere covered in the Agenda

- 4.1 There were no matters arising.

5. Election of Officers

5.1 President

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Secretary

Membership Secretary

Treasurer

Ringling Liaison Officer

Projects Officer

Event's Organiser

Communications and Publicity Officer

Website

Recorder

Steve Piotrowski

Mark Broughton

John Garbutt

Rebecca Bedwell

Cheryl Deeks

Vivienne Broughton

Chris McIntyre

Robert Flindall

Helen Gooderham

Donna Dean

Kevin Allenby(*ex-officio*)

Richard Walden

Ordinary Members

Wendy Bainbridge

6.2 MB reported that he was pleased that Cheryl Deeks had taken over as Membership secretary from Jane Watkins. He then thanked Jane for her work over the past years.

6.3 MB welcomed Wendy Bainbridge on to the committee.

6.4 Richard Walden had requested that his role as Recorder become ex- officio, this was agreed.

6.5 The committee was then voted in *en bloc*.

6. Chairman's Report

6.1 After two years of Covid related disruption to our events programme we returned to normality in 2022. It was a successful year with a great selection of well attended events. Thanks to Helen for organising and coordinating the events programme.

6.2 The Access For all Path at Minsmere RSPB was completed late last year with the official opening in December. It was a huge fund raising and planning effort taking several years to achieve and the results are tremendous. Everyone involved should be congratulated but Kathy Piotrowski deserves a special mention as it was her original idea that inspired the project.

6.3 Our application for charitable status was approved on 30th January. We are now in the process of registering for Gift Aid.

6.4 We are making good progress with the Swift Tower project. The nest chamber has been built to Robert Gooderham's design and it looks brilliant. In the meantime, it is being housed at Minsmere RSPB.

6.5 Finally thanks to all the committee for their support over the last year and for the brilliant work they do to keep the club running smoothly.

7 Treasurer's Report

7.1 VB gave a full account of all the financial transactions for the year.

7.2 The Club's Community Direct Plus Account started 2022 with a balance of £28,943.41

Between 1st January 2022 and 31st December 2022 total receipts were £17,746.40

Between 1st January 2022 and 31st December 2022 expenses were £ 26,897.95

The main expense was the payment of £22,204.55 for the Access for All Path.

7.3 The balance of the Club's account, as at 31st December 2022 was therefore:

£19,791.86 These accords with the most recent bank statement, dated 3 January 2023, which shows a balance of £19,791.86 as at 31st December 2022.

7.4 As at 31st December 2022 the account balance of £19,791.86 comprises: -

£3,193.30 Waveney Bird Club

£0.00 Access for All Path

£5,124.30 Waveney Bird Club Ringing Team

£3,444.84 Waveney Barn Owls

£1,100.62 Paddy Shaw Memorial Fund

£6,928.80 Swift Tower Project

8. Membership Secretary's Report

8.1 CD thanked JW for the work she carried out until recently as Membership Secretary and the support she has given her during the handover and continues to offer.

8.2 So far this year we have 128 members, including 17 new members. 114 paid during or before January, 10 in February and 4 in March. combinations of cash and BACS. 10 have paid the Ringing Supplement. Donations total £370. 66 members have completed Gift Aid forms.

8.3 CD reported that she had sent a reminder to those who were members last year and haven't paid yet or we haven't tied up their payments with the bank account.

9. Project Officer's Report

- 9.1 RF introduced himself by saying he had a background in planning and reported that he had taken over as Project Officer last year and had been shadowing SP on the Access for All Path.
- 9.2 RF felt his planning background has helped in the latest project The Swift Tower.
- 9.3 There had been a number of problems regarding the siting of the tower and it is now to be erected at the Eel Foot Pub in Eastbridge. The pub and land are owned by Adnams Brewery and they are very keen for the project to go ahead.
- 9.4 There are various structural considerations to have to be taken into account and due to these the cost of the project has been estimated at around £34,000. This has been quoted by Gilleards This is a great deal more than anticipated and various funding applications are being looked into. RF said he is looking into trying local builders for a more competitive price. It was felt that Gilleards was a sound company and they did know what they were doing having had many years' experience.
- 9.5 RF suggested that the club would have to try and become very creative in order to raise funds for the project. On the plus side the Nest box has been built.

10. Events Secretary's Report

- 10.1 HG reported that since the last AGM there had been 7 indoor meetings and 20 day events with 9 leaders. We had 2 trips away, one to North Wales led by Mervyn Jones and the other to Lincolnshire led by John Grant.
- 10.2 HG thanked all the leaders of the events who are all volunteers and give their time for nothing. They spend time preparing beforehand by walking and checking the route and seeing what is about in order to give us the best experience on the day.
- 10.3 In light of our recent Charitable Status we have reviewed our Health and Safety advice for participants taking part in outdoor events. These guidelines are on the WBC web site and HG urged members to take a look.
- 10.4 HG asked members to make any suggestions for speakers or places to visit which can then be considered for next year's programme.
- 10.5 Finally HG thanked all the members for their ongoing enthusiasm and support of the club and continuing to make it the success it is.

11. Communications and Publicity Report

- 11.1 In the absence of DD no report was forthcoming.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 p.m.

Signed

Date

The AGM was followed by two presentations

Ringling Report

In the absence of CM RB read out a short report.

At Minsmere and Dunwich there was very little ringing last year due to the Avian flu virus that had hit the sea birds badly.

A number of ringers took part in a BTO project under CES protocols and also continued to ring in their own gardens or on farmlands.

In total 3687 birds were ringed in 2022 made up of 62 different species.

Review of the WBC year

MB presented highlights of birds seen in our area during the year based on RWs records and a review of WBC events.

Rebecca Bedwell

Secretary

8th May 2023