



**Minutes of the Annual
Tuesday 2nd April 2024 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) Robert Flindall (RF) and Sue Alderman (SA).

There were also approximately 30 club members.

1. Welcome and Apologies

1. The Chairman welcomed everybody and apologies were received from Steve Piotrowski, Chris McIntyre and Mike Raven.

2. Minutes of the AGM 2023 held on 11th April 2023

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

3. Matter Arising not elsewhere covered in the Agenda

- 3.1 There were no matters arising.

4. Election of Officers

- 4.1 MB thanked all the present officers for all the work they had done during the year.
- 4.2 Helen Gooderham is standing down to be replaced by Wendy Bainbridge as Events Organiser and Donna Dean standing down to be replaced by Harry Read as Communications, Media and Publicity Officer.
- 4.3 Committee members standing down are Sue Alderman and Leslie Cuthbert to be replaced by Sally Nelson, Laura Raven and Helen Gooderham.
- 4.4 MB then proposed the new committee

President
Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary
Membership Secretary
Treasurer
Ringing Liaison Officer
Projects Officer

Steve Piotrowski
Mark Broughton
John Garbutt
Rebecca Bedwell
Cheryl Deeks
Vivienne Broughton
Chris McIntyre
Robert Flindall

Event's Organiser
Communications Media and Publicity Officer
Website
Recorder

Wendy Bainbridge
Harry Read
Kevin Allenby(*ex-officio*)
Richard Walden (*ex-officio*)

Ordinary Members

Helen Gooderham
Sally Nelson
Mike Raven
Laura Raven

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

5. Chairman's Report

5.1 The AGM marks the end of our first full year as a registered charity. It has been a successful year with increased membership and larger number of people attending both indoor and outdoor meetings. Bird ringing demonstrations at Minsmere had also proved popular.

5.2 Once again the events programme was expertly organised by HG. HG steps down from the role this year but will remain on the committee. Thanks to Helen for organising and coordinating the events programme. Thanks also to LC, SA and Donna Dean who is leaving the committee.

5.3 The Swift Tower project is nearing completion and it is an incredible achievement for a small charity and its success is largely due to the hard work, dedication and expertise of the project team

5.4 I am sure you are all aware of the sad news that our long time President, long standing Chairman and founder member Steve Piotrowski's cancer is terminal. He remains positive and continues to be an inspiration to us all, even at this difficult time. We send him and Kathy our best wishes.

5.5 Finally thanks to everyone who contributes to the successful running of the WBC. The committee, the event leaders, the ringing team, they have all done a brilliant job and the result is that the club is thriving.

6. Treasurer's Report

6.1 All members had been sent a copy of the financial report prior to the AGM. There were no questions regarding the accounts.

6.2 The WBC has £3193.30 and the Waveney Ringing Group has £5124.30. The majority of the money remaining held in the current account has been ringfenced for the Waveney Barn Owls or for the Swift Tower Project

6.3 Gift Aid has been applied for.

6.4 Finally, VB reported that the club was in good financial health.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

7.1 At present there are 145 members, 19 of which are new. The club continues to gain new members much of this is due to the social media content.

8. Project Officer's Report

- 8.1 The Swift Tower is now in place at the Eels Foot in Eastbridge. The project has not been without it's problems but I am pleased to say it is nearing completion.
- 8.2 The majority of the cost of the works has been funded by grants and it is not an understatement to say that SP has managed this with great success.
- 8.3 I would like to thank all the team. Steve Piotrowski, Mark Broughton, Rob Gooderham and Chris Parr working together to evolve the final design. There was close consultation with Geoff Denton, of Adam Power Associates, regarding structural aspects of the construction. Also noted, and again admired, will be the ornately carved design work on the tower's supporting pole created by local artist Jason Parr.
- 8.4 We do have a little more to do - we need to mask the necessary supporting steelwork at the base of the pole. To this end, Rob has designed a seating area where visitors can sit and enjoy the Swifts as they enter and leave the nesting boxes in the tower chamber. Touchingly, on two of the seats, memorial plaques will be fitted to honour the memory of two of our members who gave so much to the club but have sadly passed away. These are Tony Lancaster, of Walberswick, and Paddy Shaw, WBC's former Project Officer. Both were passionate about Swifts.
- 8.5 Our principal contractor, Gilleard Bros, will be back on site very soon and, fingers crossed, all will be complete by the end of April in time for the official opening at 4pm on Tuesday, May 7. It is perfect timing for a warm welcome back to the Swifts as they return to Suffolk skies. Simon Amstutz, National Landscape Manager, will give an opening address followed by words from your President and Project Manager for the Swift Tower, Steve Piotrowski.

9. Events Secretary's Report

- 9.1 18 walks have taken place in total, all well attended by newer members and numbers for each often exceeding twenty. The first walk, Dawn chorus Day at Minsmere in May produced 2 Golden Orioles over the car park at 7am.
- 9.2 July saw two events celebrating Swifts. A small group of us went to see Swift Bricks and Swift Boxes being made following Dick Newell's talk in March. Dick then took us to sites around Cambridge where there were boxes, including a swift tower, churches and a housing estate in Cambridge, all except the Swift Tower heavily occupied!
- 9.3 In October we had planned to go to Orford Ness which couldn't take place so at very short notice we made two boatloads and went over to Havergate Island instead on a very brisk tide which made landing difficult. One area of water at high tide was rich in waders and wild fowl. On return to shore the second boatload were rewarded by a peregrine streaking low across the river just in front of the prow of the ferry with the backdrop of Orford lit by evening sunshine.
- 9.4 In January the Flying Start week took place in atrocious weather but two members are notable for attending every day and were awarded certificates of merit.
- 9.5 One longer four-day trip was taken to The Wash including Gibraltar Point, Frampton and Snettisham.
- 9.6 We have enjoyed seven indoor meetings all with excellent speakers. Four members stepped up to give very interesting and different short talks at our Christmas Celebration.
- 9.7 Many thanks go to the leaders who spend time planning to ensure all goes well. I'm now stepping down from co-ordinating events but Wendy Bainbridge has kindly agreed to take on the job so I wish her well.

10. Communications and Publicity Report

- 10.1 In the absence of DD no report was forth coming.

11.1 Ringing Secretary's Report.

11. 2 In the absence of CM Roger Walsh gave the report and presentation to the members. This was in the form of excellent slides followed by information about each bird.

11.3 The number of birds ringed in 2023 were 4307 compared to last year 3687.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed

Date.....

The AGM was followed by a talk from Shon Meale on his wildlife-friendly Farm at Lessingham Norfolk

Rebecca Bedwell
Secretary
17th April 2024