



**Minutes of AGM held on 4th April 2017 at 7.30pm
at The Malting Pavilion, Pinhow Street Ditchingham NR35 2RU**

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Tony Butler and Rob Parfitt

Minutes of the AGM 2016

The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Mark Avery obtained over 100,000 signatures for his petition to parliament which triggered a debate about raptor persecution.

Constitution

Kevin Allenby is to take on an ex-officio role as website coordinator.

Election of Officers

The following Officers were re-elected en bloc:

Chair	Steve Piotrowski
Vice Chair and Ringing secretary	Chris McIntyre
Secretary	Helen Gooderham
Membership Secretary and Events Organiser	Kathy Piotrowski
Treasurer	Stephen Dean
Recorder	Andrew Green
Projects	Paddy Shaw
Communications officer	Jon Evans
Publicity	Jane Bond
Ordinary Committee member until AGM 2018	Rebecca Bedwell
New Ordinary Committee members until AGM 2020:	Roger Walsh
	Sue Alderman

Thanks were extended to Patrick Barker for his valuable contribution to the committee.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report read as follows:

2016 was undoubtedly the club's busiest year since our founding in 2007 and it's also our tenth birthday.

A wide variety of events, including an amazing trip to Georgia and Armenia, and weekends to far-flung UK destinations such as the Lake District, The Rutland Bird Fair and Spurn's Migfest were enjoyed and well supported. Please may I again thank all our leaders including regulars such as: Steve Howell, Andrew Green, Paddy Shaw, John Grant and Chris McIntyre.

Paddy will follow with an update on projects, but I should mention the "Access for all Path", which is probably the most ambitious project that the club has ever undertaken. You would be aware that there is limited access to RSPB Minsmere's East Hide for those with mobility problems or parents/grandparents with prams, so the club intends to make changes. Working with RSPB Minsmere, the feasibility study has been complete and we owe a lot to WBC member Rob Gooderham for do-



nating his time to the project. Rob is an architect by profession and his impressive drawings helped convince funders that we were serious about our plans and we are now in the position to move onto the design and tendering stage. Kathy has been busy with funding requests and I'm pleased to announce that we have received a pledge of £9,500 made up from the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB SDF (2.5k), Galloper Wind Farm Fund (£2k) and Amenity & Accessibility Fund (£5k). Until the design is complete and tenders are in, we really don't know the final cost, but included in our grant application is a professional fund-raiser to be employed to write and manage applications for a Heritage Lottery Grant to complete the final stage, which will be the path's construction. However, we are still working hard on fund-raising and Kathy will be organising a Mobility Scoter Minsmere Grand Prix – under yellow flags of course – when WBC bird guides will show people birds from the comfort of their scoters. Further details of this event will be published on our website in the next few weeks and all help would be greatly appreciated. Stephen Dean will be able to update you on moneys raised so far and I would like to thank members for their most generous contributions.

Bearing fundraising in mind, it is important that we make the most of the moneys raised and we would be able to increase the amount raised by 28% if we were able to claim Gift Aid from the Government for donations made by taxpayers. For this to be achieved, we must become registered as a charity. I have some experience of this process being Chairman of three local organisations whilst they have taken this step: Suffolk Naturalists Society, Suffolk Ornithologists Group and Landguard Bird Observatory. It is not an arduous process and the advantages are that we can claim back Gift Aid not only on donations, but on membership subscriptions so it's a win, win for the club. There are no disadvantages, although our books could be called in by the Charity Commission for scrutiny and they must be audited by a Chartered Accountant – something that the club has always done since our founding. We must also ensure that no one is seen to be receiving a benefit from the club. I am pleased to say that WBC member John Garbutt has offered to champion our application through the Charity Commission so I very much hope that members will give their approval when this is discussed later this evening.

I shall stop there, but not before thanking my vice-Chair Chris for his support throughout the year and all of the committee who continued to work hard for the club. All of what you see, the arranging of our venue, the setting it out, Jon Evans kindly arranging the raffle every meeting, Kathy and Jane for her suppers, they all play a significant part of putting together what I hope you will agree are great social events for us all to enjoy.

And finally ... the membership should be thanked for continuing to support the Club and ensuring its prolonged success.

Treasurer's Report

The Club's accounts for 2016 have been subject to independent examination and have been certified as being in accordance with the documentation provided by me (spreadsheet of transactions, bank statements, cheque books, paying-in books, receipts and insurance documents).

The Club has one account, a Co-operative Bank Community Plus Account, into which all funds are deposited and from which all payments are made. The balance of the account at the beginning of the year was £10,376.74 and at the end of the year it was £11,974.60.

Waveney Bird Club began the year with net assets of £4,622.14 and ended the year with net assets of £3,181.39.



The Restricted Funds held by the Club amounted to £5,754.60 at the beginning of the year (BAP, CARP and SCBOP) and £8,793.21 at the end of the year (AfAP, BAP and SCBOP).

At the beginning of 2016 the amounts held in relation to Restricted Funds were:

£3,125.19 BAP
£ 217.50 CARP
£2,411.91 SCBOP

At the end of 2016 the amounts held in relation to Restricted Funds were:

£3,871.30 AfAP
£1,990.00 BAP
£ NIL CARP – all funds were transferred to SOG
£2,931.91 SCBOP

NB: cheque no. 200078 to Chris McIntyre was for replacement ringing poles and was for £60, but in the course of preparing this year's accounts I came upon the original documentation, showing that the cost was actually £63. The next payment to reimburse Chris will have the missing £3 added to it.

Membership Secretary's Report

Membership is 178 and events continue to be well attended. Many have joined in the last three months possibly because they wish to support the Access for All path at Minsmere.

Members are encouraged to submit ideas for future programmes and events are constantly changing to reflect what members would like.

Project Officer's Report

Peregrine Box, St Mary's Bungay: A female Peregrine has frequented St Mary's Church, Bungay, since the winter of 2014/2015. In conjunction with the Church Conservation Trust and the Friends of St Mary's, a box financed by the club has been fixed. There has been no activity as yet.

Protection of Sand martin Colony, Outney Common: A substantial fence has now been erected at the top of the cliff where nesting takes place.

Swifts, Bungay: This may form a future project as Swift numbers have fallen by 50% in recent years. Future action is to 1) Undertake a 'swift walk' around Bungay in July to assess numbers and nesting sites. 2) Take advice from the Harleston Project on the way forward.

School's House Sparrow Project: This project was completed in conjunction with Gen Broad of the Suffolk Biodiversity Action Partnership. Nest boxes, bird boxes and a fact sheet written by Steve Piotrowski were presented to local schools. Carl Powell monitored the nest boxes in 2016 on behalf of the club, but this was not without its challenges. Health and Safety worries restricted Carl's task of monitoring.

Suffolk Community Barn Owl Project: 2016 proved to be a year of high box occupancy but low productivity. A total of 1,790 boxes were monitored, of which a record 464 (452 in 2014) contained Barn owls.



The project received £11,300 in grants, which has been spent on providing training and equipment to allow us to repair boxes. WBC has set up its own nest box maintenance fund to which WBC members have made generous donations. Several dilapidated boxes have been replaced in the Waveney area as a result of this fund. This year we are in the process of developing a "Go-Pro" camera system, which will allow us to remotely look at the contents of boxes with minimal ladder work.

Heveningham Hall: Members again took part in a day cleaning out the 2,000 nest boxes. 55 Scouts, cubs and beavers attended which was combined with a Treasure Hunt. Mr and Mrs Hunt again kindly donated £1,000 to the WBC BAP fund.

Minsmere: Ringing Demonstrations were again very popular. The Club continues to reward and encourage children who show a keen interest. Sponsorship of £500 was received from Viking Optical to support the children's activities. The BTO assigned CES (Constant Effort Site) and RAS (Re-traps for Adult Survival) registration and work will continue this year.

School's Nest Box Project: Allan Smith is championing a project at Worlingham School in which a nature area is being prepared and this year the school has raised funds for a Barn Owl box which has now been fixed.

Path for All Project: This is covered in the Charman's report.

Ringing Secretary's Report

Chris McIntyre presented a summary of another very successful year.

Ringing in Gambia: RW reported that five WBC ringers took toys and optics donated by club members. In two weeks they successfully ringed 2,290 birds of 127 species and fifteen Gambian trainees were upskilled. The WBC website will now have a Gambian link to keep members informed.

Report from the Waveney Valley Recorder

A total of 176 species was recorded during the year, the same number as 2015. This total included two nationally rare species - a Lesser Yellowlegs, present at Breydon Water throughout the winter of 2015/16 and which put in occasional appearances at Burgh Castle until 20 February, and was probably the bird seen on the scrape at Carlton Marshes, 3 April and a drake Blue-winged Teal, also appearing on the scrape at Carlton Marshes, was present on 6 and 7 June and became the first record of this North American duck for the Waveney valley.

In fact, Carlton Marshes enjoyed a wonderful year for rare and unusual species, a fine testament to the superb habitat creation work undertaken by warden Matt Gooch and his dedicated team over recent years at this Suffolk Wildlife Trust reserve. Further highlights at the reserve included a singing male Wood Warbler, 28 April, a Tree Pipit, 12 May, a Temminck's Stint, 29 May, a Corn Bunting, 31 July and a Shorelark, 11 October.

Another new species for the valley in 2016 was Cattle Egret. This species' range is expanding northwards, so, with so much excellent marshland habitat, it was perhaps inevitable that this species would be added to the Waveney list before too long. Early in the year, one was found at Aldeby, 11 February, later moving to the south side of the river where it spent the remainder of the



winter until 5 April at North Cove. Then later in the year, three were present at Burgh Castle from 11 to 16 November.

Records of species that are not annual in the area included a Wryneck, 5 September and a Red-throated Diver, 20 September, both at Burgh Castle, Yellow-browed Warblers at Thorpe-next-Haddiscoe, 3 October and separate individuals at Oulton, 8 and 11 October, an Arctic Skua which flew over Oulton, 3 October and a Snow Bunting at Haddiscoe Island, 27 December.

I end by thanking all those who provided records in 2016 and continue to do so in 2017. Your efforts are helping to form an excellent archive on our club website of the birdlife along the whole length of the Waveney valley from Redgrave and Lopham Fen in the west to Burgh Castle in the east.

Top Spot Award: The Waveney Vally recorder presented this award for the first time. Rob Parfitt was chosen as winner for his regular contributions to the list of sightings notably Spotted Flycatchers, Yellow Wagtails and a Long-Eared Owl.

Charitable Status

Members agreed to Waveney Bird Club applying for Charitable Status in order to make the most of club funds for its projects. John Garbutt has agreed to undertake the application on behalf of the club..

AOB

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm