



**Minutes of AGM held on 27th March 2017 at 7.00pm
at The Malting Pavilion, Pinhow Street Ditchingham NR35 2RU**

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Tony Butler.

Minutes of the AGM 2017

The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Changes to WBC Constitution

It was agreed by the members that two more officers should be added to the Committee.

Election of Officers

President – Steve Piotrowski was elected to this post in 2010.

Officers to be elected annually

Chairman	Steve Piotrowski*
Vice Chairman	Chris McIntyre*
Secretary	Rebecca Bedwell*
Membership Secretary	Kathy Piotrowski*
Treasurer	Stephen Dean*
Ringling Secretary	Chris McIntyre*
Recorder	Andrew Green*
Projects Officer	Paddy Shaw*
Events Organiser	Kathy Piotrowski*

Publicity Officer	Jane Watkins*
Communications Officer	Donna Dean*
<i>Website</i>	<i>Kevin Allenby (ex-officio)</i>

Ordinary Members

Until AGM 2020	Roger Walsh Sue Alderman
Until AGM 2021	Helen Gooderham* Jon Evans* David Hovell*

*for election or re-election this year

Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report read as follows:

Waveney Bird Club has had another fantastic year. Our finances are stable thanks to the tireless efforts of Stephen Dean our Treasurer. Our projects are being recognised nationally, our website is admired by all and our ringing teams go from strength to strength. We now not only partner the RSPB but also the National Trust at Dunwich, providing ringing demonstrations that never fail to please the crowd and leave many with lifetime memories.

We again produced an interesting and diverse indoor and outdoor programme and the winter field excursions and summer social nights were very well supported. I would like to thank all those who have lead field events on behalf of the Club in 2017 and in particular our regular leaders Paddy Shaw, Andrew Green and Steve Howell who have been forever reliable and my first port of call when leaders are needed at short notice.

Last year fourteen members enjoyed a wonderful birding adventure in Kazakhstan. Again a team consisting mainly of WBC members took part in a ringing expedition to Gambia and continue to fly the flag for Waveney Bird Club.

On a very sad note we have to say goodbye to a great friend. Colin Carter, co-founder of the Suffolk Community Barn Owl project and WBC member passed away just before Christmas and several members attended his funeral.

Our success as a Club is attributed to a very strong and active Committee that work tirelessly behind the scenes and I would like to thank each and every one of them for their support throughout the year. Helen Gooderham has decided to stand down after a long stint as your secretary and I would like to thank her on your behalf for propping me up on many occasions. Her place has been taken by Rebecca Bedwell. Jon Evans has agreed to relinquish the post of Communication Officer as the Club has to face a number of challenges that need particular expertise. The main challenge is the change to the Data Protection laws that come in to force on May 20th. This EU law is tailored to beat the hackers and unscrupulous companies which sell on other people's personal details for lots of money It is not aimed at small clubs such as ourselves but nevertheless we have to comply. Jon Evans and Sue Alderman will continue to organise the raffle and Kathy and Jane will continue to sort out the suppers for the indoor meetings. We owe all of them a great deal of gratitude.

Our Vice Chairman again organised a wonderfully entertaining quiz night (which was again won by BINS), so thanks to Chris for all his hard work.

New additions to the Committee this term also include David Hovell who has been a strong supporter of the club and is known as “a very nice man” by all who have travelled with him on WBC events.

I'll close by thanking you The Members, for all your support.

Treasurer's Report

Waveney Bird Club Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017

The Club's accounts, books and records have been independently examined by Ensors.

The Club itself started the year with net assets of £3,181.39 and ended the year with net assets of £3,896.09.

In addition, the Club holds “Restricted Funds”, which started the year in the sum of £8,793.21 and ended the year in the sum of £11,257.27.

All receipts are paid into the Club's Co-operative Bank Community Plus Account and all payments are made from that account, which started the year with a balance of £11,974.60 and ended the year with a balance of 15,153.36.

In relation to the Access for All Path (AfAP) from the North Wall to the East Scrape Hide at Minsmere, funds amounting £6,724.95 have been received, including the first grant payment of £4,750. The total amount raised to the end of December 2017 is £10,596.25 and the first payment to the RSPB has been made, in the sum of £4,200. All the funds relating to this project are ring-fenced within the “Restricted Funds”.

This year the Club has made donations to a number of conservation projects: £100 each to the Suffolk Wildlife Trust Carlton Marshes appeal, Champions of the Flyway and Operation Turtle Dove; £50 to the Suffolk Wildlife Trust Lackford Lakes appeal; and £195 to the Harleston Swift Tower project. The Club is keen to support activities that encourage young people to develop an interest in birds and conservation and again this year the Club's programme of ringing events at Minsmere, generously sponsored by Viking Optical in the sum of £500, was a great success. The Club also organizes conservation days at Heveningham Hall, at which Scouts from Ipswich help with nest box maintenance.

The “Restricted Funds” relate to the Waveney Bird Club Ringing Team (WBCRT) – formerly the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) funds –, the Suffolk Community Barn Owl Project (SCBOP) and the AfAP.

The “Restricted Funds” at the end of 2017 that relate to the SCBOP (£2,931.91) are ring-fenced to be spent on the Barn Owl nest box network. The “Restricted Funds” at the end of 2017 that relate to the WBCRT (formerly the BAP) (£1,929.11) are ring-fenced for ringing activities and in 2017, in addition to the Ringing supplements that members who are ringers pay and the Ringing Rebate that is received from the BTO, the WBCRT raised funds from its own activities amounting to £899.56 and the donation from Viking Optical (£500) has been transferred to that part of the “Restricted Funds”. It was agreed that of the opening balance of £1,990, one half (£995) would be transferred back to the Club.

Membership Secretary's Report

Membership currently stands at 185 and many of the new members who have joined stated they did so because they felt the projects being undertaken by the Club were very worthwhile.

Project Officer's Report

Peregrine Box, St Mary's Bungay: The female Peregrine that has frequented St Mary's Church, Bungay has not been seen for some time. The nest box will remain in place for a year or so in the hope that she may return or another bird takes up residence.

Save our Swifts Conservation Project, Bungay: This project began last summer with the 'Swift walk, Swift pint ' event when a survey of birds was undertaken by Club members. This event has raised enquiries from Beccles who have sought advice on carrying out a similar survey there.

This is to be followed in summer 2018 with a 'Swift awareness' competition in which members of the public, families and children can take part. The aim is to expand the range of these birds in the town by providing suitable nest sites in the newer buildings with purpose made boxes.

Path for All Project

End of year reports have been written and submitted. £4,500 has been paid to the RSPB in order to employ the engineers.

The engineers have advised that the final cost will be around £150,000 and the Club has to match any grants awarded. A person with expertise in grant applications has been employed to help the Club. There is a determination that we will complete this project.

Ringing Secretary's Report

Chris McIntyre presented a pictorial summary of another very successful year where record numbers of birds were ringed including for the first time, a Cuckoo and a Radde's warbler.

Report from the Waveney Valley Recorder

AG gave an illustrated talk highlighting some of the best birds recorded in the Waveney valley during 2017. The year began with impressive flocks of Waxwings feeding in gardens in Bungay, Beccles and Worlingham. This was followed by an excellent spring, with fly-over Ravens noted at Carlton Marshes on two dates, Ospreys on three dates, a Black-winged Stilt at Carlton Marshes on 20 April, eight Black Terns at Weybread Gravel Pits on 30 April, a Temminck's Stint at Carlton Marshes on 9 and 10 May and a first-summer Night Heron photographed at Carlton Marshes on 31 May. A juvenile Honey Buzzard passed through Carlton Marshes on 12 September and a Great White Egret spent the majority of December at Redgrave Fen. The autumn was notable nationally for an irruption of Hawfinches from the continent giving many people a chance to see this shy and elusive finch. He thanked all members who provided records in 2017 and continue to do so in 2018. These records are helping to form an excellent archive on our club website of the birdlife of the Waveney valley.

Top Spot Award

The Waveney Vally recorder presented this award for the second time. Keith Watkins was chosen as winner for the Osprey he saw at Broome on 3 April, one of only three Ospreys recorded in the Waveney valley in 2017.

Charitable Status

John Garbutt submitted a report to the Committee at the November meeting on his research and has since been in correspondence with the Charity Commission.

General Data Protection Regulations

Changes to the Data Protection Laws come in to force on May 20th 2018. Donna Dean as the new Communications Officer will ensure the Club complies with these regulations.

AOB

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm