



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on
Tuesday 19th March 2019 held at The Maltings Pavilion, Ditchingham NR34 2RU at 7.30
p.m.

Present: Committee members plus approx. 50 Club members

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 The Chairman welcomed everybody. Apologies were received from John Garbutt and Kathy Piotrowski.

2. Minutes of the AGM 2018

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 We now comply with the recently introduced General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

4. Changes to the WBC Constitution

4.1 There have been two additional roles created. Donna Dean is the new **Communications and Publicity Officer**, and will be responsible for the Club complying with the GDPR regulations. Roger Walsh is the Club's **Ringling Liaison Officer** while Chris McIntyre will continue in his role as Ringing Secretary.

5. Club Committee Members 2019

Prior to the AGM meetings were held to redefine the roles of the Committee members and they are now as follows:

President and Chairman	Steve Piotrowski
Chairman	Steve Piotrowski
Vice Chairman	John Garbutt
Secretary	Rebecca Bedwell
Membership Secretary	Jane Watkin
Treasurer	Stephen Dean
Ringling Liaison Officer	Roger Walsh
Projects Officer	Paddy Shaw
Events Organiser	Helen Gooderham
Recorder	Andrew Green
Communications and Publicity Officer	Donna Dean
<i>Website</i>	<i>Kevin Allenby(ex-officio)</i>

Ordinary Members

Sue Alderman

6. Chairman's Report

- 6.1 Steve Piotrowski (SP) reported that once again we had had another successful year. The club is in a stable financial position and he thanked our treasurer Stephen Dean (SD) for his work in maintaining the accounts.
- 6.2 Our conservation and ringing projects are admired by a great number of people helped by our web site which continues to grow and have a great deal more information on it for members of the club and public. All our indoor and outdoor activities for the past year were well attended.
- 6.3 The 'Access for all Project' has been a joint WBC and RSPB Minsmere project for several years. It is now gaining momentum and we hope to have all the funding and permissions ready for a start in Autumn 2020.
- 6.4 SP went on to thank all those who led field trips during the past year and members of the committee for their support and concluded by saying that it is the club's policy to encourage members to tell committee members about any ideas for events they may have, this helps keep the club fresh and to be able to continue to attract new people.

7. Treasurer's Report

Stephen Dean reported that the club is in good financial shape and he talked through the financial statement.

The Club's Community Direct Plus Account started 2018 with a balance of £15,153.36, made up as follows:

£3,896.09 Waveney Bird Club
£6,396.25 Access for All Path
£1,929.11 Waveney Bird Club Ringing Team
£2,931.91 Suffolk Community Barn Owl Project

Between 1st January 2018 and 31st December 2018, receipts were as follows:

£2,016.80 Waveney Bird Club
£6,301.00 Access for All Path – donations and grant payment
£3,580.39 Waveney Bird Club Ringing Team
£8,717.00 Suffolk Community Barn Owl Project – Grant payment
= £20,615.19

Between 1st January 2018 and 31st December 2018, expenses were as follows:

£3,026.59 Waveney Bird Club
£ 900.00 Access for All Path – payments to O Last
£1,511.53 Waveney Bird Club Ringing Team
£8,717.00 Suffolk Community Barn Owl Project – transfer to SOG
= £14,155.12

The balance of the Club's account, as at 31st December 2018 was therefore:

£15,153.36 + £20,615.19 = £35,768.55 - £14,155.12 = **£21,613.43**

This accords with the most recent bank statement, dated 4th January 2019, which shows a balance of £21,613.43 as at 31st December 2018.

As at 31st December 2018 the account balance of £21,613.43 comprises:

£ 2,886.30 Waveney Bird Club
£11,797.25 Access for All Path
£ 3,997.97 Waveney Bird Club Ringing Team
£ 2,931.91 Suffolk Community Barn Owl Project

SD concluded by saying that all our accounts are subject to an independent review before being brought to the AGM.

8. Membership Secretary's Report

- 8.1 Jane Watkin reported that the Club had 126 paid up members. She thanked all the members who had donated via their subscription renewal to the 'Access for all Project'.

9. Project Officer's Report

- 9.1 Paddy Shaw (PS) gave a brief description of our main project last year which was the Swift Awareness project. The main events were walks around Bungay and Beccles to count the number of swifts in the town centres. These events had been well attended and the public were keen to get involved. PS hoped to carry out a similar project with swifts this coming year and aims to organise other relevant projects.

10. Recorder's Report and Presentation

- 10.1 Andrew Green (AG) gave an illustrated presentation highlighting some of the rarer and more interesting birds recorded in the Waveney valley during 2018. The undoubted star of the year was an American Bittern which spent six weeks at Carlton Marshes in the spring, including singing and displaying to a Eurasian Bittern. At the far eastern end of the valley, a Slavonian Grebe was present for two weeks in November at Burgh Castle. Members of the heron family dominated the year with records of Great White Egret from Redgrave Fen, Oulton Marshes, Carlton Marshes, Haddiscoe Island and Herringfleet Marshes, Glossy Ibis from Carlton Marshes and Burgh Castle and Cattle Egret from Carlton Marshes (where up to four were recorded in December) and Burgh Castle. A calling Corncrake was heard on marshes at Earsham in early June, but was most likely from a reintroduction programme located in the Wensum valley. It was a poor year for passage waders, the highlight being an adult Curlew Sandpiper seen at Carlton Marshes in July. The rarest passerine of the year was a Penduline Tit seen on Haddiscoe Island in late November. Moving on to 2019, the most notable bird to date has been a Green-winged Teal present at Herringfleet Marshes since late February.
- 10.2 AG presented the annual 'Top Spot' award to Steve Piotrowski for the Honey Buzzard he saw fly over his garden in Bungay on 30th May, the only Honey Buzzard recorded in the Waveney valley in 2018. He concluded by encouraging members to email him at recorder@waveneybirdclub.com with any sightings of interest in the Waveney valley.

11. Ringing Report

- 11.1 Chris McIntyre reported that 2018 had been a very successful ringing year for the club with over 7000 birds processed. The highlight of the year was a Merlin which had been ringed in the Highlands of Scotland on the 3rd July 2018 and recovered at Dunwich on 28th August 2018. A goldfinch ringed in in Dunwich on 31st October 2016 was recovered at Cleveland on 2nd January 2019 and a nightingale ringed in Rendlesham 28th May 2017 was recovered at Lackford on 8th May 2018.
- 11.2 Chris presented our youngest trainee ringer, Laura Raven, with her C licence.

12. Charitable Status

- 12.1 Steve Piotrowski reported that we were still continuing with our application and hopefully it would be submitted shortly.

13. Access for all Project, Minsmere

- 13.1 This was progressing well and it was hoped that work would start on it by October 2020. The RSPB had received a gift of £100K to be used to provide improved accessibility at Minsmere. WBC are continuing to apply for grants and raise funds.

14. Any Other Business

- 14.1 There was no any other business.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 p.m.

Rebecca Bedwell
Secretary
14th April 2019