



Welsh Ornithological Society
Cymdeithas Adaryddol Cymru
www.birdsinwales.org.uk

Secretary
Ian M Spence
43 Blackbrook
Sychdyn
Mold
Flintshire
CH7 6LT

Phone: 01352 750118
Email: ian.spence@zen.co.uk

**Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting of the Welsh Ornithological Society
5 November 2016, Myddfai**

1. Present

members were present at the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Rhion Pritchard, Amanda Skull.

3. **Minutes of the last AGM on 7 November 2015, Carno**

Proposed as accurate by Julian Hughes, seconded by Anne Brenchley. Accepted.

4. **Chairman's report**

As is usual this report covers the 12 months since our last AGM rather than the financial year which runs until December.

WOS has published (on the website) our 5 year strategy and are now nearly one year into its implementation. We have increased our membership on target and started re-developing the website. WOS attended Birdfair for the first time in 2016, where we attracted new members and spoke to many people about WOS, birding and bird conservation in Wales. The e-newsletter continues to update members on all aspects of Birds in Wales and the website is updated with news as often as possible – both thanks to Julian. We have launched the Derek Moore Young Conservationist Bursary, and continue the Derek Moore Student Research Award. The strategy is reviewed every year and we welcome any members' suggestions.

WOS has been active in many ways, helping to champion birds in Wales.

The small grant scheme supported 4 projects covering Swifts, Little Tern predation, wintering Twite and breeding Wheatears. A new application window opens in the New Year and all members and affiliates are eligible to apply.

WOS signed a formal agreement with Birdtrack as a core partner and we look forward to help develop the partnership further. We are looking at running Birdtrack training sessions and would welcome suggestions for venues.

WOS tries to respond to relevant Government consultations and although we have very limited resources we try and campaign for specifically Welsh bird issues where we can and continue to support national campaigns and publications such the Birds of Conservation Concern.

We continue to have concerns over two important issues in Wales. We have still not had an adequate response from Welsh Government over the licensing of the shooting of fish eating birds with no evidence for them having a serious impact on any fishery.

President: Iolo Williams

We were also very disappointed that for a second time the Welsh Government decided not to ban the shooting of Greenland White-fronted Geese, in spite of its clear international obligations. WOS provided detailed evidence to the consultation, but we have not been told why this was ignored. The Government claims to be 'evidence based' but on the two above issues it chose to ignore the clear evidence presented. We will continue to press it on both issues.

As part of the strategy we continue to develop our relationship with our Affiliate Members and to support the Welsh Records Panel.

The Chair thanked all our members for their continued support and remind everybody we are still looking for a Secretary, Bird Report Editor and a Website Manager for Council.

Finally the Chair thanked all members of Council for their hard work and their support in his first year of Chairmanship.

The report was proposed by Steph Tyler and Seconded by Carlton Parry. Accepted nem con.

5. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer reminded those present that last year he said not to worry about the deficit. This year the finances have ended up about even, but with a surplus of about £600. The conference at Carno contributed to this surplus. Broadly speaking, the Society is keeping its head above water.

The accounts were satisfactory with a balance of about £12,000 which is adequate, but will soon disappear if income is not maintained or increased.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Giles Pepler and seconded by Bob Haycock. Carried nem con.

The Treasurer spoke to a proposal to change the subscription categories and amount. The category change will make things easier as there will be no 'family' membership. The Society is soon going to experience some increased expenditure on website development and would like to try to aspire to colour printing for Birds in Wales. Generally, the Society runs itself cheaply but with inflation and postage charges due to increase there is a need for more income.

The changes were proposed by Ian Spence and seconded by Adrienne Stratford. Accepted nem con.

The Treasurer was thanked for his work during the year.

6. Secretary's report

There was nothing out of the usual to report. The Secretary was thanked by the Chairman.

7. Editor's report

The Editor sent a report that was read by the Secretary. He sent his apologies for not being at the Conference to present this report, as he was away in South Africa.

Birds in Wales 13 (1) was published in September, and included five papers. Publication was slightly delayed, as we had to wait for the paper on Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 to be ready. Papers are needed for next year's Birds in Wales. The Editor would be very happy to hear from any WOS members who have plans for papers, or who know of others who may be interested in writing a paper.

The Welsh Bird Report for 2015 is likely to be published in January rather than December, as we are still waiting for some of the county reports. This is the seventh Welsh Bird Report Rhion has edited, and he is stepping down as Editor of the Report after this one.

8. Election of Officers

Ian Spence came to the end of his second term as Secretary so stood down. As yet there has been no volunteer to replace him. He was thanked for the work he had done.

Steve Sutcliffe was proposed to be the new Treasurer by Carlton Parry, seconded by Iolo Williams, carried nem con.

Alan Williams was proposed to be Membership Secretary by Ian Spence, seconded by Steph Tyler, carried nem con.

Rhion Pritchard was proposed by Bob Haycock, seconded by Wendy James, carried nem con.

Giles Pepler was proposed by Kelvin Jones, seconded by Annie Haycock, carried nem con.

9. Changes to the constitution

The first part was put to the meeting:

4.1.1 individuals of up to and including 25 years of age

4.1.2 those 26 years old and older (including one or two people at the same address)

Renumber following clauses in Section 4

Proposed by Bob Haycock, seconded by Richard Facey and accepted nem con.

The second part was put to the meeting:

Additional word (underlined) in clause 7:

“The Council shall consist of not less than eight and not more than twelve elected members...”

Additional word (underlined) in clause 7.1.7:

“Council has the power to co-opt additional members of Council.”

Proposed by Iolo Williams, seconded by Carlton Parry and accepted nem con.

10. Date of next meeting

4 November 2017 at Monmouth.