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**Minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting of the Welsh Ornithological Society
4 November 2017, Monmouth**

1. Present

48 members were present at the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

None.

3. **Minutes of the last AGM on 5 November 2016, Myddfai**

Proposed as accurate by Bob Haycock, seconded by Giles Pepler. 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.

We are now nearly two years into the implementation of our 5 year strategy ((published on the website). As part of that strategy we now have updated the logo and have redesigned Birds in Wales. We have also completely re-designed the website and the databases behind it. Our address is now <https://birds.in.wales>. The members' area is being updated and we are investigating scanning in all back copies of Birds in Wales / Welsh Birds which will then be available as a resource to all members. We continue to increase our membership. WOS attended Birdfair again in 2017, 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. I'd like to thank Julian for all his work on the e-news and the website over the last few years. I am grateful to Giles, who has taken over the running of the website and we are now looking for a new editor of the e-newsletter. In addition, Alan has decided to stand down as membership secretary. I'd like to thank him for his many years of service to WOS and this means we are also looking for his replacement. Please talk to any member of Council if you are interested.

President: Iolo Williams

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

Some money was spent on the revamping of the WOS website. The small grant scheme supported one project on 'Tracking Bardsey Island's Manx Shearwaters' by Ben Porter. Two £100 bursaries were provided for two students. The Derek Moore Student Award was given to Libby Brooks, at Cardiff University for her study of 'The impacts of climate change on woodland phenology, temporal patterns of frass fall and the subsequent effects on breeding success of the Pied flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*'.

A new application window opens in the New Year and all members and affiliates are eligible to apply. The Derek Moore Young Conservationist Bursary, and the Derek Moore Student Research Award also continue. Details of all of these are on the website.

WOS continues as a core partner of Birdtrack and we look forward to help develop the partnership further.

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.

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 their clear international obligations. We are now signatories on a complaint to the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, along with the Greenland White-fronted Goose Study Group as we see this failure to protect this declining goose as a breach of the agreement.

We continue to develop our relationship with our affiliate members and to support the Welsh Records Panel.

I would like to thank all our members for their continued support and remind everybody we are still looking for a Membership Secretary and an e-newsletter editor.

Finally I'd like to thank all members of Council for their hard work and their support in my second year of Chairmanship.

5. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer explained that the finances of the Society are in a fairly healthy position. He wishes the Society to spend some money, so people are encouraged to apply for grants, bursaries, etc.

Report proposed to be accepted by Keith Noble and seconded by Julian Hughes. Accepted nem con.

6. **Election of Secretary**

There were no other nominations so Ian Spence was proposed by Mick Green, seconded by Giles Pepler. Accepted nem con.

7. Election of Council members

Heather Crump was proposed for a first term by Ian Spence, seconded by Carlton Parry. Accepted nem con.

Carlton Parry was proposed for a second term by Julian Hughes, seconded by Robin Prytherch. Accepted nem con.

8. **Date of next meeting**

3 November 2018 at Bangor.

At the end of the meeting the President informed all that the Welsh Ornithological Society has sponsored Manx Shearwater in the forthcoming publications of the results of the European Breeding Bird Atlas 2.