

Glamorgan Bird Club
Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting

Date: 26th April 2016 - 19:45 Hours
Location: Kenfig National Nature Reserve

Present: David Bush, David Carrington, Emma Cram, Mike Cram, Garth Crandon, Strinda Davies, Paul Denning, Janet Dewes, Howard Driver, Leigh Forman, Mary Gallagher, Gareth Jenkins, Ceri Jones, Gary Light, Wayne Morris, John Moxham, Adrian Murch, Alan Rosney, John Samuel, Margaret Samuel, Paul Seligman, Colin Stevenson, Anne Wilson, John Wilson.

Apologies: Andrew Bevan, Neil Donaghy, Phil Hardwick, Jean Haslam, Rod Haslam, Graham Holmes, Annie Irving, Andrea Jones, Mike Jones, Ken Miller, David Rich, Paul Roberts, Cliff Woodhead.

Item	Description
1.	<p><u>Minutes of the AGM 28th April 2015</u></p> <p>No issues were raised in relation to the Minutes of the 2015 AGM.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Motion: "2015 Minutes to be accepted as a true and accurate record". Proposed: John Wilson Seconded: Paul Denning Voting: Carried Unanimously</p>
2.	<p><u>Chairperson's Report on behalf of the Trustees</u> (<u>'Verbatim transcription'</u>)</p> <p>Welcome to this the 2016 Annual General Meeting and thank you for your attendance and support this evening.</p> <p>Membership</p> <p>The current membership stands at 256, similar to last year's numbers. Although we have had members who have not renewed their membership, it is pleasing that we are attracting new members. Once again the committee has decided that the club is in a position whereby there is no need to increase the membership fee. There are members still not paying the correct fee. Please check if you are paying by standing order that you are paying the correct fee. Also, if anyone has not signed the gift aid form, please do. It is a source of revenue for the club. These forms are available from the Membership Secretary.</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>It is pleasing to report once again that the Club's accounts are in good order as a result of the hard work of Anne Wilson, the Treasurer, who will give a full Treasurer's report following this report. As in previous years we the Trustees have insured that there has been funding in place for our commitments such</p>

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as the annual bird report and newsletter, and we have not undertaken any expense before ensuring the necessary funding is available. The application for the Gift Aid tax return regarding our status as a charitable organisation has been submitted and the payment received.

Conservation and environmental concerns

As you may gather from the media there is a threat to the natural environment in the form of developers wanting land for housing and industrial purposes. An area of concern is the Cardiff Tidal Lagoon. We are monitoring this closely and voice our concerns where possible. We have also been in touch with The Vale of Glamorgan Council concerning a development north of Cowbridge to build 470 houses. Unfortunately this is a known breeding site for Lapwing. We have made this known to the Planning Authority with some success as one of the conditions for permission to build is that an agreed plan to support lapwing and skylark breeding is in place before building can start. We have also contacted the Planning Inspectorate concerning the proposed work on common ground near Rhaslas Pond which the committee will continue to monitor.

As a committee we have looked at many species of birds that are on the red or amber list to see if there is any action that can be taken to help with their survival. Unfortunately there are species such as the Willow Tit that we as a committee are unable to help. We have continued the winter feeding at Ty'n Y Caeau Farm with the support of Mr John Evans. This is to support Yellowhammers and Reed Buntings which Glamorgan Bird Club has self-funded. It is monitored by the ringing group with Linnet, Greenfinch, Goldfinch and Yellowhammer rung. Also thanks to Richard Smith of Llantwit Major and Rod and Jean Haslam and other club members for checking and filling the feeders.

The main bird of current interest is the Swift. With the modern trend for the use of PVC fascia boards, birds are denied nesting sites so surveys have been carried out and will continue in the breeding season to identify where Swifts are breeding and if required provide nest boxes. As part of national nest box week a nest box making session was held and a number of swift nest boxes made. Some have been installed at Bedwas Primary School which is a known breeding site. A successful bid for funding from the Welsh Ornithological Society has provided the club with £400 towards funding this project. If you wish to take part in this project by becoming a swift champion and monitor the swifts in your area, please contact Alan Rosney whose contact details can be found on the GBC website.

Media and events

As part of our responsibility to conform to the Trustees' mandate to educate the people of East Glamorgan about ornithology, the 2014 Annual Bird Report has been published under the editorship of John Wilson and the various section writers. I think everyone will agree that it is of its usual high standard. If you wish to help with this publication we are still looking for section writers.

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This publication could not happen without the thousands of records sent in by club members and the Kenfig ringing group who provide records of the breeding birds on Kenfig NNR. Among the birds rung was a Marsh Tit, a first for Kenfig, and another bird of interest was a Grasshopper Warbler.

The quarterly newsletter continues to be very informative as edited by Alan Rosney, with thanks to the various contributors. It is pleasing to note the high standard of articles and photographs. The web site is continuing to be updated providing news of forthcoming events and reports of past events.

The monthly walk at Kenfig NNR continues to be a popular event with a regular following. Thanks to Strinda Davies for leading the walks and to Jean and Rod Haslam for mince tarts in the hide on the December walk. It is also good to note this walk is attracting the younger members of the club.

A series of walks was also carried on, an average of two a month, to different locations both in and outside the county. Attendance was generally encouraging, the most popular being Slimbridge and locally Cosmeston. The annual trip to The Portland Observatory again was a popular event. Although bird species were low at the Observatory we took the opportunity to visit RSPB Arne where we spent a pleasant time observing waders and heathland species. In all 71 species were observed over the weekend. Moving the Big Birding Day to April proved a good idea as the stalls were placed outside. Together with the bird walks and ringing display where birds could be observed in the hand, this attracted a lot of interest from visitors to Kenfig. Mrs Wilson's exceedingly good cake stall and the plant and book stalls enabled us to share a profit with the nature reserve.

Please see the Club website for the 2016/17 year's events which I recommend to anyone who wishes to improve their knowledge of ornithology.

The Future

It is with much regret that I will be no longer involved with the running of the Club as it is time for me to stand down as Chairman as I feel that I cannot give it the attention it requires. I am positive that I am leaving in place a dedicated committee who will continue to uphold the interests of the club and ornithology within East Glamorgan area.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee for the support I was given in my time in office and to thank the membership for their friendship and support in general.

Adrian Murch
Chair Glamorgan Bird Club

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3.

Treasurer's Report and adoption of accounts
('Verbatim transcription')

Income

1. Subs are down another £100 with more people choosing not to renew.
2. Sales of books EGBR sales are down this year but we did sell 2 other books.
3. Clothing No clothing was sold this year.
4. Donations and Talks Much the same as last year with Alan Rosney doing the National Trust walk in May and the rest is donations from members when they pay their subscriptions.
5. GOS paid us their share of the various internet fees for the shared site.
6. Farmland Feeding Grant Once again we were unsuccessful due to the limited resources available for grants.
7. Charity Payments/Gift Aid Much less than last year as we only had 1 year's claim and no Easy Fundraising money as we've not quite reached the level set for payment.
8. Big Birding Day A pleasing increase in profits due to returning to an earlier date when we were able to be outside...and catch the passing public!
9. Indoor Meetings Much the same as last year despite having to cancel 1 of them.
10. RCT Grant No grant available this year as last year's was a one-off.
11. Bank Interest An increase this year due to a better rate for the bond.

Expenditure

1. EGBR No change to these costs
2. Admin/Stationery The costs of programme cards doubled this year and new pieces were needed for the notice boards.
3. Internet costs are up as more domain names were renewed this year. (some are renewed yearly, some every 2 years.)
4. Postage Costs are down by £200 despite buying the stamps for the next 2 newsletters before another price rise!
5. Farmland Bird Feeding similar costs to last year and also self-funded by the Club.
6. Newsletter Slightly cheaper as a few more people are receiving it by email.
7. Indoor Meetings Much less this year as we haven't paid any speaker fees and have had some donated raffle prizes.
8. Atlas Costs. This is just the annual "upkeep" costs of the site.
9. Travel Expenses Similar to last year.
10. Scrape Sponsorship None given this year.
11. RCT Grant No grant income so no expenses!
12. Nest boxes Wood bought for making the special boxes for the swift project.
13. Big Birding Day A slight increase on last year.

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Other Points

1. You'll be pleased to hear that there have been no further fraudulent activities on our bank account.
2. We have continued with putting the spare money into a Bond...this time into an 18 month Bond with a higher interest rate.
3. The Club's Members' Fund balance now stands at £12,976, up £376 on last year.
4. Despite not receiving anything from Easyfundraising during the year, I am pleased to say that more people seem to be using Easysearch and Easyfundraising. Thank you to everyone who has been using these and please continue doing this and remind others to do the same!
5. We have secured funds of £400 from WOS for our Swift project which will be accounted for in the next financial year.
5. Malcolm James has agreed to continue as our Honorary Auditor for the new financial year.
6. The accounts as presented have been agreed with the auditor who has signed them off as being a true record of the club's accounts.

Anne Wilson
Treasurer

Question:

Paul Seligman expressed his satisfaction with the Annual Accounts and Treasurer's Report but wondered if the Club needed to maintain the current level of Member's Fund balance (£12,976).

Answers:

John Wilson explained that the Members' Fund balance had been deliberately accumulated during the build up to the Atlas because the original plan was to publish it in book form, which would have been very expensive. It was later decided to publish it in web format, which meant a much lower cost.

Ceri Jones explained that the Club was looking into applying for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to enable further work on Swift conservation beyond that funded by the WOS grant. The level of matched funding required by HLF was as yet unknown and was one reason for maintaining the current level of Members' Fund balance.

The following was then put to the meeting:

Motion: "The 2016 Club Accounts to be adopted as a true and accurate record."

Proposed: Alan Rosney

Seconded: Mike Cram

Voting: Carried Unanimously

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4.	<p><u>Election of Officers</u></p> <p>The Chairman advised the meeting that Strinda Davies had expressed willingness to be nominated for election as Chair of the Club. There were no other nominations.</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>Motion: "Strinda Davies to be elected as Chair" Proposed: David Carrington Seconded: Paul Denning Voting: Carried Unanimously</p> <p>Treasurer</p> <p>Anne Wilson confirmed that she was willing to be nominated for re-election as Treasurer. There were no other nominations.</p> <p>Motion: "Anne Wilson to be re-elected as Treasurer" Proposed: David Bush Seconded: Alan Rosney Voting: Carried Unanimously</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Ceri Jones confirmed that he was willing to be nominated for re-election as Secretary. There were no other nominations.</p> <p>Motion: "Ceri Jones to be re-elected as Secretary" Proposed: John Wilson Seconded: Alan Rosney Voting: Carried Unanimously</p>
5.	<p><u>Election of Committee Members (Trustees)</u></p> <p>Paul Roberts and John Wilson have reached the end of their three year term and must stand down. Both are willing to stand again.</p> <p>Motion: "Paul Roberts to be re-elected to the committee for a further three years" Proposed: Alan Rosney</p>

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	<p>Seconded: John Samuel Voting: Carried Unanimously</p> <p>Motion: “John Wilson to be re-elected to the committee for a further three years” Proposed: David Carrington Seconded: Mike Cram Voting: Carried Unanimously</p> <p>The Chairman advised that club member Andrew Bevan had expressed interest in joining the Committee. There were no other nominations.</p> <p>The following motion was put to the meeting:</p> <p>Motion: “Andrew Bevan to be elected to the committee for a term of three years” Proposed: Alan Rosney Seconded: John Wilson Voting: Carried Unanimously</p>
6.	<p><u>Appointment of Auditor.</u></p> <p>The Club’s current Auditor Malcolm James is prepared to continue to audit the Accounts of the Club.</p> <p>Motion: “Malcolm James to be appointed as Auditor”. Proposed: David Carrington Seconded: David Bush Voting: Carried Unanimously</p> <p>The Chairman expressed his thanks to Malcolm James for acting as the Club’s auditor in respect of the 2016 Accounts.</p>
7.	<p><u>Any motions submitted for debate</u></p> <p>No motions were submitted for debate.</p>
8.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Alan Rosney addressed the meeting and noted the distinguished service that Adrian Murch had given the Club over a number of years. Alan noted that Adrian had served as Treasurer for several years and had since been Chairman over the last 4 years. Adrian had also been involved with the</p>

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	<p>monthly bird walk at Kenfig for a number of years and had taken an active role in the winter bird feeding at Ty'n y caeau farm.</p> <p>There was appreciation among those present of Adrian's work on behalf of the Club, and the following motion was put to the meeting:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Motion: "Adrian Murch to be awarded Honorary Membership of the Club in recognition of his distinguished service to the Club".</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Proposed: John Wilson</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Seconded: Paul Denning</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Voting: Carried Unanimously</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">No further items were raised and the meeting was closed at 20:30</p>