

HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS CLUB

Minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting held at Huddersfield Town Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 17th November 2015.

27 Members attended the meeting and there were apologies for absence from Nick Mallinson.

The minutes of both the 2014 AGM, and the SGM on 12th May 2015, which had been placed on the website after those meetings, were agreed as a true record of the meetings. They were duly signed by the President, Mike Wainman. There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

President's Report

MW started by stating that this would be his last report as President as he was standing down from that role. He gave a brief report on the activities of the club (a copy of which is placed on file) stating that on our core activities we had another successful lecture programme, published an excellent 2013 Annual report, and our website and forum had been maintained. The attendance at regular Spring patch outings was disappointing. In addition to these regular activities we instigated a nest box scheme, investing almost £2000 in sourcing 147 boxes and donating them to 7 Woodlands and Reserves. We also carried out our first club survey for some years.

Following the resignation, due to work commitments, of John Walker from his roles as Treasurer and Indoor Meetings Organiser, MW wrote to members for help and 4 people stepped forward to join the Committee, not only filling the gap but also strengthening of the Committee.

Reducing membership has been a concern dropping from a high of more than 100 a few years ago to 76 last year but with Hazel Sill joining the Committee as Membership Secretary numbers have reached 81 this year. MW asked that members try to recruit new members to ensure viability of the club. Brief discussion took place on how we could do this.

MW stated that this year will be the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the club and asked for ideas on how we could celebrate this. A book on the natural history of Blackmoorfoot was nearing fruition.

AK reported that he had looked at improving the acoustics in the room but the costs were prohibitive.

The meeting formally recorded the thanks to Mike Wainman for all the work he had done as President and Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report

The accounts with accompanying notes had been circulated before the meeting started. They had been audited and approved by the Committee. The members unanimously accepted these accounts.

Recorder's Report

David Butterfield issued a brief note before the meeting asking that records are appreciated, particularly from under recorded areas and that common species are often neglected.

Conservation Report

Mike Denton reported that the Wildlife forum was breaking away from Kirklees. He also said that Planning Regulations had been relaxed providing less protection for wildlife sites.

Election of Officers

The proposals placed on the Agenda, and set out below, were unanimously accepted by the meeting to serve 2 years (except where noted);

President	Mike Denton
Treasurer	Nick Mallinson
Indoor meetings	Alf King
Committee Member	Hazel Sill
	David Sill
	Mike Wainman
	John Walker (1 year)

Auditor

The meeting approved unanimously the appointment of Brian Armitage as Auditor

Any Other Business

Roger Mitchell said that In Focus at Denby Dale sponsored our newsletter and urged members to use them for purchases.

MW said that a wholesale supplier occasionally gave us supplies of damaged bird feed. As this had to be collected in bulk members were asked for help in transporting the feed.

MW handed the President's Chain to Mike Denton who praised MW for the work he had done for the club.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm followed by an excellent presentation by Alf King on Cuba

Signed

Date