

HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS CLUB

Minutes of 47th Annual General Meeting held at Huddersfield Town Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th November 2013.

24 members attended the meeting and apologies were received from David Hardacre, Michael Taylor, David & Betty Barrens, Stuart Brocklehurst and David West

The minutes of the 2012 AGM were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by Mike Wainman. There were no matters arising.

Presidents Report.

MW gave a brief activity report (a copy placed on file) saying that the club has had another successful year, highlighting an excellent and wide ranging lecture programme. The 2011 report was published last Autumn and the 2012 report is now ready to go to the printers. Patch Outings were mostly well attended and much appreciated.

There are areas where we have not been able to achieve as much as we would wish. Alf King does a sterling job in maintaining the web site and forum but to take forward the development of the site we need someone with more IT expertise to come forward and help.

Income from Annual Reports is minimal due to loss of sales outlets. Members were urged to try to sell reports where ever possible.

There has been no response for volunteers for "Personal Patch Outings" but it is hoped to progress this by talking to individuals. We have not carried out any in house surveys. Russ Smithson had volunteered to act as Survey Coordinator, but sadly following his death we shall miss his input. We need someone to come forward to fill this role.

Membership is falling from 96 in 2011/12 to 81 in 2012/13, this years figure is 75 to date. A brief discussion took place on how we could arrest this decline and MW asked anyone with ideas to pass them to any member of the committee.

Treasurer's Report

John Walker said there had been a delay in preparing the accounts due to pressure of work. A draft has been completed which will be circulated to Trustees for comment. They will be sent for Audit before final approval by Trustees. They will then be put before the members at a meeting.

It was pointed out that as a Charity we should not accumulate funds but use them within the remit of the charity. MW asked members for any ideas on projects and to let the committee know.

Recorder's Report

David Butterfield reported that records for 2013 were coming in slowly, from 53 people covering 168 species, between 8 to 9,000 entries out of the usual annual total of around 15,000. He reminded members that he prefers records to come in on a regular basis to smooth his workload in entering data.

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Conservation Report

Mike Denton reported that no Conservation issues had arisen this year. At 2012 AGM there were fears of the loss of Cooper Bridge as a birdwatching site, but these have proved unfounded. The damage has not been as intense as predicted and, for example, as many Reed Warblers bred in 2013 as in 2012.

Election of Officers

The proposals placed on the agenda were accepted unanimously by the meeting as follows, to serve 2 years:

President	Mike Wainman
Treasurer	John Walker
Indoor meetings Organiser	John Walker
Committee Member	Alf King

With the appointment of the three people above and the 5 other members not due for re-election this year, the Committee has only 8 members, which is the minimum number required by the constitution. The Committee can co-opt further people to the committee and will seek to do so. Anyone willing to serve was urged to contact either the President or Secretary.

Appointment of Auditor

The meeting approved unanimously the appointment of Reg Senior as Auditor.

Any Other Business

Mike Denton said the position with Blackmoorfoot hide was as last year. Someone is using it as a smoking den but not causing damage otherwise. The hide is being left unlocked but members will still need a key to enter the site.

The meeting closed at 8.00 followed by an excellent presentation by Steve Cook on his trip to Panama

Signed

Date