

Kent Ornithological Society

Minutes of the 70th Annual General Meeting

Held 7.30pm on 7th April 2021 (via Zoom). Attended by 33 members of the Society

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from the Society's President, Chris Cox who could not attend the meeting because the internet connection to his village had been cut off.

Chris Roome (CR), Acting Chairman opened the meeting on behalf of Chris Cox and welcomed members to the Society's first online AGM.

2. Annual Report.

CR introduced the Annual Report that had previously been distributed to members. The last year had clearly been very unusual because of the pandemic and while frustrating at times it had helped many of us reconnect with birding in our local area. CR highlighted some of the key projects that the Committee had been involved in, including the replacement of the Cobra database and the sightings database. The latter had been removed from our website as a precautionary measure to ensure compliance with data protection regulations. A consultant had been appointed and we hoped to have the sightings database up and running by September. In the meantime an excel spreadsheet was to be provided to allow observers to record their sightings and add them to the Society's record.

CR provided the meeting with an update on the conference planned for later in the year. If a physical meeting couldn't take place the event would be held on line.

Questions from members:

Richard Collins asked if the event was to be on-line could it be held in the evening as early November was a peak time for bird watching. CR responded that speakers had already been booked so it would be difficult to move the event but the timing issue would be considered for future events.

John Cantelo asked if something like a business card could be made available to give to prospective members to encourage them to join the Society. Brendan Ryan in response said that we were currently working on two documents, a checklist and a 70th anniversary leaflet that might be used for this purpose.

Mike Henty asked for the contribution of Lyn Griffith in assisting Ray O'Reilly in running field meetings could be recognised in the annual report.

3. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report and annual accounts for 2020 had previously been circulated to members. Mike Henty highlighted the £18,000 legacies received in the previous year which gave the Society a financial cushion enabling us to engage a consultant to work on updating our website and databases. MH extended his thanks to Keith Ellis who had again carried out the independent audit of the accounts.

The meeting unanimously approved the accounts for 2020.

4. Minutes of previous meeting 11th April 2019

There had been no meeting in 2020 due to the pandemic and lockdown restrictions. An annual report had been distributed to members and questions had been invited on-line.

The minutes of the meeting held in April 2019 were approved.

5. Election of officers

The following were approved to serve for the following year.

Chairman:	Andre Farrar
Vice Chairman:	Chris Roome
Hon. Secretary:	Brendan Ryan
Hon. Treasurer:	Mike Henty
Membership Secretary:	Chris Roome
Chairman of Editorial & Records Sub-Committee:	Barry Wright
Chairman of Conservation & Survey's Sub-Committee:	Murray Orchard
Editor of Kent Bird Report	Keith Privett
Outdoor Meetings Organiser:	Ray O'Reilly
Indoors Meetings Organiser:	Vacant
Archivist:	Robin Mace
Ordinary Member:	Stephen Wood
Ordinary Member:	Keiron Palmer
Ordinary Member:	Vacant
KOS News Editor	Norman McCanch

At this point Andre Farrar took over the Chair. AF said it was a great honour to be asked to fill this important position and looked forward to helping the Society develop over the next year.

John Cantelo proposed that the meeting thanked the officers of the Society for their contributions during the past year.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm