



Kent Ornithological Society

Minutes of the 72th Annual General Meeting

Held 7.30pm on 25th April 2023 (via Zoom). Attended by 26 members of the Society

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Norman McCanch, Ralph and Brenda Todd, Jack Chantler, Barry Wright, Richard Collins and Robin Mace

2. President's address

Chris Cox opened the meeting by suggesting that the progress of KOS could be measured by its special relationship with Nightingales. The first KBR barely mentioned Nightingales but by the 1970s they had been identified as a species with special significance which justified its own survey. The 1970 survey was held on a single night and the police were alerted to suspicious activities in country lanes during the night. It is fitting that 2023 sees the latest Nightingale survey.

CC went on to thank the contributions made by the officers of KOS and especially those that had spoken at events to promote our work.

3. Chairman's report

Andre Farrar endorsed the thanks to all those that had contributed to the work of the Society over the last year including members who had made their records available to KOS and had participated in the more formal surveys run by KOS. The pressures on bird populations meant that these records had never been so important.

The progress of KOS during the last year had been documented to Annual Report that had been e-mailed to members. AF highlighted the work that he and the committee had been doing to improve liaison with other conservation bodies in the county like KWT, RSPB and Bird Wise to make sure that birders interests were considered in the management of their reserves. This included improved management of water levels at Oare and the funding of some environmental works to enhance viewing from the new hides at Dungeness.

There had also been some positive engagement with local conservation groups at places like Marden and Old Park, Canterbury.

The transfer of old paper records to a digital format had been completed and the new sightings database was operational. Progress was being made in the replacement of Cobra, the Society's master database. An on line talks programme had been initiated and was proving popular, while the newsletter is going from strength to strength.

Increasing financial pressures had forced us to put up subscriptions but at £15 they still represented excellent value for money.



Murray Orchard set out the work during the last year of the Surveys and Conservation Committee. The committee included good representation from other organisations and was keeping track of several large developments in the county. The organising of the Nightingale and Woodcock surveys had been a key focus of the committee.

There were concerns about the impact of avian flu on bird populations.

Keith Privett in Barry Wright's absence spoke about the work of the Editorial and Records committee. Work on the 2021 Kent Bird Report was progressing and was expecting to be published by August. A question was raised about whether given increasing printing and postage costs whether a digital KBR had been considered. AF said there had been discussions about this but the feeling was that members would still want it kept in its current format but consideration was being made to produce an on line version via the website. However producing an online Birds of Kent was the next priority.

Chris Roome spoke about the work of the new Engagement Committee. It was pleasing that the committee had a membership which included new skills in social media and IT. 60 new members had joined already this calendar year, partly driven by things like restricting viewing rights to parts of the website to members only.

4. Treasurer's Report

Mike Henty described some of the key elements of the annual accounts including increased membership income, offset by an associated increase in production costs of the KBR. Some IT projects like the replacement of the database and the scanning of paper records had resulted in significant one off costs but the increased in subscription rates would mean that we had the resources to deal with similar events from reserves during the next few years.

AF said that while members' subscriptions paid for the day to day running of the Society including the production of the KBR, we wanted to find new ways to raise additional funds to enable KOS to provide financial support for conservation projects in Kent. The opportunities for merchandising were discussed and the Engagement Committee was looking at this. As ever the real issue is who amongst the limited number of volunteers was willing to manage this new activity.

The accounts and associated notes are appended to the minutes .

5. Minutes of the 71st AGM (4th May 2022)

Minutes- approved.

6. Election of officers.

The meeting confirmed the following as officers of the Society for the next year

Nominations for Officers and Committee Members:	
President:	Chris Cox



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
Archivist:	Robin Mace
Ordinary Member:	Keiron Palmer
Ordinary Member:	Gary Howard
Ordinary Member:	Martin Collins
Other Officers	
KOS News Editor	Norman McCanch
Outdoor meeting Organiser	Ray O'Rielly