MINUTES OF THE AGM OF
SOUTHAMPTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
held at Edmund Kell Hall, Southampton
Monday, 8 April 2024 at 19.30

Apologies for Absence: Dave and Anna Stewart, Karen and Steve Dudley, Cath Corney

The Minutes of the 2022 AGM were read and approved.

There were no Matters Arising.

Chairman's Report

Phil Budd gave a brief *Chairman's Report*. He praised the superb *Annual Report* and thanked Mike Creighton and Jan Schubert for their efforts. He thanked Mark Trigwell for arranging the *Field Meetings Programme*. He appealed for a volunteer to write up reports of Field Meetings. He said that it was a shame we usually get only about six members at Field Meetings except for joint events with other organisations. Cath Corney has done a superb job arranging *Zoom and Face-to-face meetings*. We will carry on doing a mixture of both. We have an attendance of 20–30 people listening to Zoom talks. *Recording* is going well. We have a huge collections of records for the City, which Phil can use to check when and where species have been seen. He has compiled all the flora and fungi records, but still has work to do on butterflies and moths and birds. It is exciting to see new species arriving in the City, although this is a result of global warming/wetting.

Treasurer's Report

Written *Treasurer's Reports* for the financial years 31/12/2021–31/12/2022 and 31/12/2022–31/12/2023 were presented. The Society can claim 25% *Gift Aid* from HMRC, but we can only claim from people who have ticked the Gift Aid box. We can't claim Gift Aid if you no longer pay income tax or capital gains tax. It is important for members to let Joanne Gulliver know if their circumstances have changed or they have changed address. She has a list of contact details if you want to check they are correct.

Election of Officers

(a) The following officers had indicated that they wished to be re-elected. They were elected *en bloc*, proposed by Vernon Jones seconded by Darren Naish.

Chairman & Recording Officer	Phil Budd
Honorary Secretary	Jan Schubert
Honorary Treasurer	Joanne Gulliver

Sue Channon stood down as *Membership Secretary.* No nominations had been received for the position, which remains vacant.

(b) *General Members of Committee*

Cath Corney (serving as Indoor Talk organiser), Mark Trigwell (serving as Field Meeting organiser), Graham Manchip, Julian Moseley, and Nick Smith wished to be re-elected as general members. Mike Creighton who had been co-opted onto the committee in April 2023 to look after Digital matters and wished to be elected as a general member.

They were re-elected *en bloc*, proposed Phil Budd seconded Anthea Jones.

(c) Our *President* is Chris Packham CBE.

Mike Creighton had e-mailed Chris's PA, but had not received a reply. However, Southampton Natural History Society is still listed on his website and he was pleased to receive his copy of the Annual Report at the Hampshire Ornithological Society members' meeting.

Any Other Business

Sue Channon was thanked for her service. Not only had she done a superb job for 12 years, but had organised the delivery of programmes and Annual Reports. Phil suggested that she should be made an *Honorary Member*. Proposed Lolyn Sutton, seconded Julian Moseley. She was also given a small present.

There was a discussion about the *species guides* the Society has produced. The Hoverfly Book is available online, where errors in the print version have been corrected. The textual information is OK, but there are some errors in the photo identification. There are no plans to do any more booklets at present. There may be a new edition of The Butterflies of Southampton, but that is produced by Butterfly Conservation.

Spiders was suggested as a future topic, but problems are that it is difficult to get beyond genus to species (although a genus guide would still be useful) and collection is difficult because they are so soft.

It was pointed out that surveys and booklets do not have to be driven by the committee. Someone else's proposal and survey could be put together as a cheap booklet.

It was suggested that an interactive guide to common species (eg hoverflies and spiders) could be put on the website. Identification queries are already being answered on the Society's Facebook page (which has 380 members compared to the Society's 120), but more could be done on the website.

People are directed to iRecord to submit their records and all the Society's records also go there.

The AGM was followed by a *talk on wildlife photography* by Dianne Watkins.