

Henfield Birdwatch Annual General Meeting Minutes – 14th April 2023 at 19:30

A record of attendees was kept

Item	Discussion Points	Actions Arising
1	Chairman's Opening Remarks	
	<p>The meeting opened at 19:35.</p> <p>This was the 24th AGM of the Henfield Birdwatch. The Chairman commented on how good it was to see so many new faces at the meeting and this reflected how the group was thriving.</p> <p>The meeting papers are available on the website.</p>	
2	Apologies	
	<p>Apologies were received from: Libby and Ashley Serpis, Wendy and Leo Jago, Paula Blake, Alan & Anne Burnage, Audrey Wende, Lesley Millward, Paul Robards, Anne & John Bowers, Pat Brooke and Phil Jemmett.</p>	
3	Minutes of the last AGM	
	<p>Val and Debbie were thanked for running the meeting in the absence of most of the rest of the committee.</p> <p>The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
4	Treasurer's Report	
	<p>The Treasurer had provided a written report before the meeting.</p> <p>She highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022 income exceeded expenditure by around £1,000. Consequently, subs were left at the same rate they have been since 1999. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We now have over 250 members. • We no longer spend significant sums on postage with most papers and newsletters being made available electronically. They are printed for those without internet access. • The 2021 book has been delayed by printer issues, but is expected imminently. • The main areas of expenditure were highlighted to the meeting. • Additionally, the Annual Bird Bash raised £364 for the Haven. <p>There were no questions.</p> <p>The accounts were accepted unanimously, having been proposed by Eddie and seconded by Will.</p>	
5	Chairman's Report	
	<p>The Chairman had provided a written report prior to the meeting. He commented that he was pleased to get back to 'normal' following the disruption of the last couple of years. The group is in "rude health" with high participation, particularly through our Facebook page. Attendance is up at events and walks.</p> <p>As well as engagement, record collection is at the heart of what we do. Building on the excellent work started by Roger French, Paul Cole is now managing our data and sharing it with other organisations, including the BTO and SOS. He has done significant work to remove duplication and ensure the databases are a comprehensive record of sightings in our area. This data can then be used effectively to monitor bird populations and provide information to landowners and the local authorities. We recorded around 9,500 sightings, with accurate location data, last year. These records feed into the now annual Bird Reports. The Chairman expressed this thanks for Paul for all the time and effort that he puts into his role.</p> <p>The group continues to be involved with the community. Val has been developing a Heritage Trail, specifically relating to birds, for Henfield Parish Council.</p> <p>The Chairman reminded the meeting that Birdwatch merchandise is available through the website.</p> <p>Finally, he thanked the Committee for all their hard work.</p> <p>The report was accepted unanimously, having been proposed by Paul and seconded by Wendy.</p>	
6	Election of Officers	

	<p>Mike and Val were unanimously re-elected as Chair and Treasurer respectively having been proposed by Debbie and seconded by Nigel.</p> <p>The rest of the existing Committee were also re-elected unanimously, having been proposed by Dave and seconded by Hilary.</p>	
7	AOB	
	<p>There was no other business.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 19:55</p>	

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