

# Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society

Minutes of the 153<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 online via Zoom.

## Chairman: Tony Leech

*[Due to the high rates of COVID-19 circulating in the community the AGM was held online, with voting carried out in advance of the meeting rather via direct participation. Thirty-eight members sent in their votes via email or post, whilst the AGM was watched live by 34 people]*

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Received from: John Butcher, Carl Chapman, Tania Evanns, Sam Neal, Frances Schumann and Michael Usher.

### 2. Minutes of the AGM held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021.

No issues had been raised regarding the previous minutes and a copy was signed by the Chairman.

### 3. Matters arising from the previous minutes.

None had been raised, however the Chairman mentioned that the Membership & Events Committee has recruited more members and will be meeting shortly to discuss how the Society can do more for young people.

### 4. Annual Report

A copy of the Report had been circulated to the membership in Natterjack #156. This year the format of the Trustee's report section has been changed to provide more information about the activities of the Society and it is hoped that members will consider this an improvement.

### 5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Jim Froud, who combines the role with that of Membership & Events Committee Secretary. Jim began by thanking members of the Finance Committee who help him maintain the integrity of the accounts. Membership numbers reached 675 at the end of December 2021 and are currently at 690, the highest number on record. Jim thanked Tony Leech for sending out welcome packs to all of the new members, along with the distribution of the publications bought online and those supplied to shops.

In 2021 NNNS benefited from a legacy of around £16,000 from the estate of Barbara Ann Fox, who was a member of the Society between 1972-2020. A sum of £7000 was also received from the Sarnia Trust, who have provided the Society with £61,000 since 1975. The Society's end of year bank balance increased during 2021 as a result of these additional sources of income, and these funds have already begun to be used to fund research projects and occasional publications.

The Treasurer drew attention to an error in the financial report supplied in Natterjack, in which the start of year balances had reset to zero. Other columns in the report would still have allowed the correct figures to have been determined. This error had been noticed and corrected in the version sent to the Independent Examiner, and will be published on our website and the Charity Commission website once the accounts have been certified. Earlier Annual Reports from 2016 onwards are also available via the same sources.

Jim invited anyone who had any further questions regarding the finances of the Society to email him at [membership@nnns.org.uk](mailto:membership@nnns.org.uk)

### 6. President of the Society for 2022/23

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Society President for the forthcoming year is **Dr Pam Taylor**. Pam is a long-term supporter of the Society and has held the role of county recorder for Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) for over 25 years, as well as co-authoring several publications for the British Dragonfly Society.

Outgoing President **Nick Acheson** was thanked, and attendees were reminded that his Presidential Address will take place at Eaton church hall on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

### 7. Comments on Council members

The Chairman mentioned the sad passing of Peter Lambley, who was a Vice President and county recorder for lichens. Rob Yaxley has kindly agreed to take on the latter role. There are two changes to Officers this year. James Emerson is stepping down as Secretary, but will become editor of Transactions. He is succeeded as Secretary by John Hobbs, who has retired from a career in finance and brings experience of being a Trustee for Norfolk Wildlife

Trust. In addition, Danielle Engelbrecht has stepped down as Chair of the Membership & Events Committee, and is replaced by Sarah Butler, a long-standing member of the Society. Tony also welcomed the other new members of Council being elected at the AGM.

### Reporting of the voting

For the next section of the meeting Society Secretary James Emerson presented the results of the voting. A total of 38 members had sent in their votes, passing the quorum of 25, so the meeting was quorate for decision making purposes. It was explained that standard motions required a simple majority of votes to pass, whilst changes to the laws required at least two thirds of votes. For simplicity all motions had been proposed by James Emerson and seconded by Tony Leech.

### 8. Election of Officers as listed below

All nominees had given their agreement to stand either in person or by email and had been proposed and seconded by members. All were standing unopposed and election of officers *en bloc* was passed with one abstention.

<b>Chairman</b>	A. R. Leech
<b>General Secretary</b>	J. Hobbs
<b>Assistant Secretary</b>	F. J. L. Farrow
<b>Treasurer</b>	J. Froud
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	T. Evanns
<b>Events &amp; Membership Committee Chairman</b>	S. Butler
<b>Events &amp; Membership Committee Secretary</b>	J. Froud
<b>Publications Committee Chairman</b>	A. R. Leech
<b>Publications Committee Secretary</b>	J. Parmenter
<b>Research Committee Chairman</b>	N. M. Collins
<b>Research Committee Secretary</b>	J. Higgins
<b>Liaison Committee Chairman</b>	C. Chapman
<b>Liaison Committee Secretary</b>	J. Parmenter
<b>Finance Committee Chairman</b>	J. Froud
<b>Finance Committee Secretary</b>	T. Evanns

9. Sue Gale, Joe Harkness and Tim Strudwick were elected as **Members of Council** to serve until March 2025 unanimously.

10. Catherine Peet was approved as an **honorary member of the Society** unanimously.

11. A change to Law 24 to specifically allow future AGMs to be held online if Council deem there to be exceptional circumstances was passed with one abstention.

### 12. Appointment of Independent Examiner

The re-appointment of **Martyn Benstead** of Stephenson Smart was passed with one abstention.

### 13. Any Other Business/questions from members

There had been no questions submitted by members.

The Chairman ended the meeting by mentioning the next two Society events, an online talk by Liam Smith on 5<sup>th</sup> April and the Presidential Address in person on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

After the meeting was closed an illustrated talk was given by Tony Leech entitled  
**"Fungal Excitements"**