

Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society

Minutes of the 154th Annual General Meeting of the Society, held on 28th March 2023 at St Andrew's Church Hall, Eaton.

Chair: Tony Leech

Forty-four members attended, (well above the quorum of twenty-five)

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from: John Butcher, James Emerson, Mary Ghullam, Tony Irwin, Sam Neal and Jo Parmenter.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 22nd March 2022.

No matters had been raised regarding the minutes and a copy was signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes.

No matters were raised

4. Annual Report

The Chair noted that a copy of the Report had been circulated to the members. He highlighted the 'rebranding' of the Events and Outreach Committee and its boosting of the educational aspect, as well as the expansion of work carried out by the Research Committee and the continuing links with other bodies maintained by the Liaison Committee.

He stated that membership had reached 713 as opposed to below 500 when he was first involved in the 1980s. However he stressed the Society's high dependence of a very small number of people, referring to the recent demise of the Birmingham Natural History Society which simply ran out of volunteers to run it, despite sufficient funds.

The Annual Report was adopted by the meeting nem con.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Jim Froud. He thanked Tania Evanns who was stepping down as Assistant Treasurer for her work, noting that the role was now unfilled.

He stated that no legacies or gifts had been received during 2022 and thus there was a deficit of nearly £4000 as funds received in previous years were used, especially for research and education. Some payments had been made after the year end, and therefore the 'real' deficit was somewhat higher.

He confirmed that the Independent Examiner had completed his work and had approved the accounts which were about to be signed.

6. President of the Society for 2023/24

The Chair announced that the Society President for the forthcoming year would be Tim Holt-Wilson, who was introduced to the meeting. He is an eminent local geologist with interests in geodiversity and geoconservation.

Outgoing President Pam Taylor was thanked, especially for her Presidential Address two weeks earlier.

7. Election of Officers for 2023/24

The Chair thanked the members of Council who were standing down, Tania Evanns, Joe Harkness and Alice Liddle. He introduced Anne Edwards as the new Secretary of the Events and Outreach Committee, and also Allan Archer and Rob Yaxley as new Council Members.

All nominees were standing unopposed and the election of officers en bloc was passed nem con.

Chair	A. R. Leech
Secretary	J. F. Hobbs
Assistant Secretary	F. J. L. Farrow
Treasurer	J. Froud
Assistant Treasurer	Vacant
Events & Outreach Committee Chair	S. Butler
Events & Outreach Committee Secretary	A. Edwards
Publications Committee Chair	A. R. Leech
Publications Committee Secretary	J. Parmenter
Research Committee Chair	N. M. Collins
Research Committee Secretary	J. Higgins
Liaison Committee Chair	C. Chapman
Liaison Committee Secretary	J. Parmenter
Finance Committee Chair	J. Froud
Finance Committee Secretary	Vacant

8. Election of Council Members

Allan Archer and Rob Yaxley were elected as Members of Council to serve until March 2026 unanimously.

9. Increase in subscriptions

The Treasurer stated that subscriptions had not risen since 2014 and referred back to the deficit in 2022 and increases in costs. Accordingly Council was proposing an increase in subscriptions from £20 to £25 per annum. He mentioned various administrative changes that would be necessary. The Chair emphasised increasing costs, especially in printing and postage.

The increase was agreed by the meeting nem con.

12. Appointment of Independent Examiner

The re-appointment of **Martyn Benstead** of Stephenson Smart was passed nem con.

13. Any Other Business/questions from members

Mark Collins referred to the increasing use of the internet. The Treasurer, in his role as Membership Secretary, confirmed the greater use of the Mailchimp system to send information to members, which was both cheaper and more timely. He said he had almost 650 email addresses for members and requested those outstanding.

The Chair ended the meeting.

After the meeting was closed an illustrated talk was given by Francis Farrow entitled
"Discover Beeston Common – its management and biodiversity"