



**Welsh Ornithological Society**  
**Cymdeithas Adaregol Cymru**  
[www.birdsinwales.org.uk](http://www.birdsinwales.org.uk)

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**Minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Welsh Ornithological Society  
12 November 2011, Carno**

**1. Apologies for absence**

Ken Humphries (Trefil), Pete Jennings, Alan Williams

**2. Minutes of the last AGM on 6 November 2010, Carno**

Proposed as accurate by Mick Green, seconded by Maeve Caplin. Accepted.

**3. Matters arising**

None

**4. Chairman's report**

Council has been continuing with its efforts to make WOS relevant to the birding community in Wales and to work more with the bird organisations across Wales. Council has wanted the Society to be sustainable and this appears to be happening with the support of its members and the support of non-members who attend the conference. Council was especially pleased with the establishment of the small grants scheme this year which meant that £1000 was provided to small projects to contribute to the conservation of birds in Wales:

- £400, Andrew Dixon, South Wales Peregrine Monitoring group;
- £400, John Hatfield, Merlin monitoring in mid and south Wales;
- £100, Goldcliff/Llangorse Ringing Group, passage of Aquatic Warblers
- £100, Teifi Ringing Group, passage of Aquatic Warblers.

Each of these has provided a report on its progress. The small grant scheme will be repeated in 2012.

The Chairman is very pleased with the appearance and functioning of the Society's website, managed by its webmaster, Julian Hughes. It is increasingly useful to birders in Wales.

The Chairman reported that WOS is willing to work with other groups in Wales and during the year WOS acted as the grant applicant to CCW on behalf of an Affiliate Member group that was not, itself, a charity. There were some issues arising from the venture, but it proved to be very successful for that group. WOS would be willing to assist in such a way for other Affiliate Members.

The Chairman would like more people to become members of WOS and made a plea for non-members present to join.

## 5. Treasurer's report

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Secretary presented the accounts that had been provided for the meeting. The overall financial picture is healthy, that should mean that the small grants scheme should be able to continue for a few years with the current level of funding.

In questions about the financial report, Robin Prytherch pointed out that the Society should ensure that it has a printed copy of the current, and future, Scarce and Rare Birds reports that are only made available on the website (to avoid loss of electronic versions). One member expressed a wish for a printed copy, but it was pointed out that this would lead to an increase of £4 in the subscription. The Secretary was prompted to report that the Society would be arranging for the WOS website to be archived by the National Library of Wales.

The accounts were presented by Ian Spence and seconded by Derek Moore and nobody objected.

## 6. Secretary's report

Minuted the various meetings of Council and AGM and had organised this conference. There had been correspondence between the Society and Hugh Morrey Salmon about the book 'Footprints in the sands of time', a biography of Hugh's father, Col Harry Morrey Salmon, copies of which were available for sale at the conference.

## 7. Editor's report

The Editor was pleased that issues of Birds in Wales had been published on time and the Rhion Pritchard was in the last stages of preparing the Welsh Bird Report for 2010.

Robin Prytherch raised the issue that the Westminster government may, soon, consider the issue of licences to cull Buzzards as a 'pest' species. The Society will oppose this where possible.

## 8. Election of Council members

The Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Editor were re-elected for another term, proposed by Council, seconded by Iolo Williams and agreed *nem con*.

Julian Hughes was proposed as Vice Chair by Ian Spence, seconded by Steph Tyler and this was agreed *nem con*.

Two current Council members (Mick Green, Pete Jennings) were proposed for re-election by Council, seconded by Graham Williams and agreed *nem con*.

Two currently co-opted members of Council (John Jones, Richard Facey) were proposed for election to Council by Council, seconded by Iolo Williams and agreed *nem con*.

Bob Haycock was proposed as another member of Council by Ian Spence, seconded by Derek Moore and his election was agreed *nem con*.

## 9. Amendments to the Constitution

The following changes were put to the meeting, proposed by Ian Spence and seconded by Derek Moore and agreed *nem con*.

## **5 President**

- 5.1 The Society shall have an honorary President who shall be elected and stand for an initial term of five years. The President will be eligible to stand for re-election.
- 5.2 Nominations for President must be made by individual members of the Society in writing and must be in the hands of the secretary at least 28 days before the Annual General Meeting.
- 5.3 The President may attend meetings of Council.

**Amend first paragraph of section 6 (ie the new section 7) with the addition of the words underlined.**

The Council shall consist of not less than eight and not more than twelve members (who shall act as trustees of the Society) and not including the President, elected at the annual general meeting and shall include:

## **10. Date of next meeting**

The next AGM will be on 3 November 2012 at a venue to be decided. [note that subsequent to the AGM, the date was re-arranged for 10 November 2012 owing to availability]