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**Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting of the Welsh Ornithological Society
8 November 2014, Rhuthun**

1. Present

X members were present at the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Richard Facey, Mick Green, Kelvin Jones, Carlton Parry

3. Minutes of the last AGM on 2 November 2013, Monmouth

Proposed as accurate by Iolo Williams, seconded by Giles Pepler. Accepted.

4. Matters arising

None

5. Chairman's report

The Vice Chair reported on the great loss to the Society – and the wider conservation community - with the death of Derek Moore.

Three grants were awarded under the small grants scheme – a Cardiff Swift project, the use of thermal imaging to monitor Lesser Black-backed Gulls and the effects of turbines on breeding Curlews. More applicants for future grants are wanted to apply by the end of February 2015.

A one-off donation of £1000 was to the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales for auk monitoring. He emphasised that bailing out important projects dropped by Welsh Government is not the role of charities, but in the wake of the winter storms on seabirds, Council had decided to make an exception.

There seems to be good progress with the use of BirdTrack in Wales and more observers and Recorders are using it and its data.

The Society is pleased to have the number of Affiliate members that it has but wishes to identify how the relationship with the Affiliate members can best develop.

The Society welcomed West Wales Holiday Cottages as a Corporate member

We have not been able to respond to all Welsh Government consultations and we are not able to object to all planning developments though we did object to the proposed destruction of Rhaslas Pond by an opencast mine in South Wales and we supported the Hen Harrier Day. The organisation Birders Against Wildlife Crime has a stand in the foyer. We supported a petition to ban the shooting of Greenland White-fronted Geese and presented evidence to a Senedd Committee that discussed the matter. We are going to maintain pressure against shooting of GWf Geese in Wales. We also used Freedom of Information regulations to obtain information about licences issued to shoot fish-eating birds on rivers in Wales.

The Welsh Records Panel has its report for 2013 now available on the website and the Welsh Raptor Study Group is preparing for discussions with NRW about licensing.

All members were thanked for their continuing support.

6. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer had great concerns when Derek Moore became the Chairman as he had ideas and they cost money! However, we have an improved financial situation such that we provide grants and still have healthy funds. There is a small surplus for 2013 compared with 2012.

The Treasurer wanted us to spend money to do things like grants for projects, etc but the closing balance has increased not decreased. The Society is currently in a sound financial position.

The verbal and financial reports were proposed for acceptance by Alan Williams, seconded by Iolo Williams and accepted nem con.

7. Secretary's report

There were the usual secretarial activities and the Secretary attended Derek's funeral, in part, representing WOS.

8. Editor's report

The Editor reported that the thickness of Birds in Wales depends on the number of contributions submitted from members. Papers are always welcome.

Rhion Pritchard was thanked for his work doing the Welsh Bird Report and it is hoped that he will succeed Steph Tyler as Editor. Ian Spence was thanked for typesetting.

9. **Amendments to the Constitution**

The Vice Chair explained the reasons that Council is seeking to amend three sections of the Constitution to increase the length of each term of office to five years as detailed on the paperwork provided for the conference.

Proposed by Ian Spence, seconded by Robin Sandham and carried nem con.

10. **Election of Officers**

JH was willing to stand for a second term of five years as Vice Chair, proposed by Ian Spence, seconded by Iolo Williams and carried nem con.

Ian Spence was proposed to continue as Secretary until November 2016, proposed by Bob Haycock, seconded by Alan Williams and carried nem con.

Alan Williams was proposed to continue as Treasurer until November 2016, proposed by Ian Wright, seconded by Steph Tyler and carried nem con.

Steph Tyler was proposed to continue as Editor until November 2016, proposed by Giles Pepler, seconded by Anne Brenchley and carried nem con.

11. **Election of Council members**

The Vice Chair asked those present if the remaining Council members could have their terms of office extended by two years by voting for the remaining people en bloc. The AGM agreed and Mick Green, Richard Facey and Bob Haycock were elected for extended terms nem con.

12. **Date of next meeting**

7 November 2015 at Carno.

13. **Lifetime Achievement Awards**

The President presented John Lawton Roberts with his award as he was unable to attend the conference at Monmouth. He read commendations for the two people who were accepted for the awards this year. David Saunders was present and Peter Davis was shown receiving his award by a video recording.

Student Award

The President gave the first award to Faith Jones for her work on Oystercatchers in the Menai Strait.