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### **Minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Welsh Ornithological Society 3 November 2018, Bangor**

1. Present

52 members were present at the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Heather Crump, Richard Facey, Neil Lambert, Carlton Parry.

3. **Minutes of the last AGM on 4 November 2017, Monmouth**

Proposed as accurate by Anne Brenchley, seconded by Dan Rouse. Accepted.

4. **Chairman's report**

As is usual this report covers the 12 months since our last AGM rather than the financial year which runs until December.

WOS has had another busy year. We attended Birdfair again in 2018, where we attracted new members and spoke to many people about WOS, birding and bird conservation in Wales. We are still failing to attract any support from Visit Wales, despite being major ambassadors for attracting visitors to Wales. We are now nearly three years into the implementation of our 5 year strategy ((published on the website). We are meeting all the targets we set ourselves, except significantly increasing the membership. We now have a new membership leaflet, and the facility to pay by Direct Debit. We would ask all our members to do their utmost to recruit at least one new member this year. More members gives us greater clout with government, and greater funds for our grant schemes.

The e-newsletter continues to update members on all aspects of Birds in Wales and the website is updated with news as often as possible. If you have any items you'd like to share please let us know.

WOS has been active helping champion birds in Wales in many ways.

The small grant scheme continues to support worthwhile projects A new application window opens in the New Year and all members and affiliates are eligible to apply. The Derek Moore Young Conservationist Bursary, and the Derek Moore Student Research Award also continue. Details of all of these are on the website.

WOS continues as a core partner of Birdtrack and we look forward to helping develop the partnership further.

**President: Iolo Williams**

WOS tries to respond to relevant Government consultations and although we have very limited resources we try and campaign for specifically Welsh bird issues where we can and continue to support national campaigns and publications such the Birds of Conservation Concern.

We continue to have concerns over several important issues in Wales. Following our pressure on Welsh Government over the licensing of the shooting of fish eating birds with no evidence for them having a serious impact on any fishery, there is now a forum involving anglers, Welsh Government, NRW, RSPB and WOS to try and resolve the issue. It shows what constant pressure can achieve.

In a related subject we were concerned to learn this year the NRW are also giving licences to kill Ravens because they are taking pheasant poults. Again, the evidence seems to be flimsy but WOS is following this up.

We continue to develop our relationship with our affiliate members and to support the Welsh Records Panel. I thank Jon Green for the Rare and Scarce Birds Report that is now available on the website.

I would like to thank all our members for their continued support and, as always I'd like to thank all members of Council for their hard work and their support in my third year of Chairmanship.

## **5. Treasurer's report**

The finances of the Society are healthy. Currently, about half of members pay their subscriptions by Standing order and we wish to change for all members to pay by Direct Debit. Currently, less than half have signed up for Gift Aid and we would like many more to do so.

Birds in Wales was paid for this year, so the actual surplus for last year was about £200. A donation was made to Curlew Cymru and the Society has sponsored Manx Shearwater in the publication of the European Breeding Bird Atlas 2.

We need more people to apply for grants (though applicants need to check that the species is a priority for WOS). We have received two donations that we need to spend wisely. Membership is now about 300 and we need more.

## **6. Election of President**

Iolo Williams was proposed by Mick Green, seconded by Ian Spence. Agreed nem con.

## **7. Election of Council members**

Alison Noble was proposed by Mick Green, seconded by Ian Spence. Agreed nem con. Dan Rouse was proposed by Giles Pepler, seconded by Iolo Williams. Agreed nem con.

## **8. Date of next meeting**

16 November 2019 at Aberystwyth.