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**Minutes of the 54th RNHS Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 5th March 2019 at Voluntary Action Rutland, Lands End Way, Oakham with Vice-President Mr Phil Rudkin in the chair.

1. **Apologies.**

Gill Chiverton, Rose and Harry Bakker, Roy and Carol Edwards, Carol Needham, Angie Humphries Jayne Walker and Derick Hill.

1. **Minutes of previous AGM 2018**

Minutes had been previously circulated with Fieldare. No comments were received. The Minutes were approved and signed.

1. **Honorary Treasurer’s Report and Approval of Accounts.**

Margaret Conner circulated the Society’s accounts for the year ending December 31st 2018, which had been checked by Mr Douglas Matthew, C.A..

Overall income for 2018 was £3,704 and expenditure was £2,813, yielding a surplus of £891 for the year. The Society reserves remain comfortable at £8,526.

Income for 2018 was less than that for 2017, mostly due to a reduction in subscription income. It was noted that income from sales of the calendar covered the costs of production.

Expenditure in 2018 decreased compared to 2017 as this year there were not the special expenditures associated with the 50th Anniversary projects of 2017.

Linda Biddle invited members to consider how some of the Society’s reserves could be put to good natural history use.

Linda Biddle thanked Margaret Connor for her report.

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Ann Tomlinson and seconded by Jenny Harris.

1. **Re-appointment of Mr Douglas Matthew as Independent Examiner.**

Mr Matthew was reappointed as Independent Examiner for 2019.

Proposed by Linda Biddle and seconded by Anthony Biddle.

1. **Chairman’s Annual Report.**

Chairman Linda Biddle reported that 2018 had again been an active year for the Society. The indoor meetings had been well attended, particular the talk given by Phil Rudkin and Dave Needham, and that given by Dawn Balmer. Outdoor meetings were also popular. An innovation was the Society visit to the Natural History Museum in London.

The Society was once again represented at the Rutland Show, attracting a few new members.

Particular attention was drawn to the website organised by Peter Scott, to the continuing regular production of Fieldfare by Hendrina Willoughby-Ellis, and to Shirley’s provision of refreshments at the indoor meetings.

It was noted that the Annual Report is now published only on the website, not as a paper edition. The importance of Recorder’s continuing their submissions was stressed.

Adoption of the Chairman’s report was proposed by David Cotter, and seconded by Jane Ball. The meeting agreed the acceptance unanimously.

6a. **Election of Officers (with Mr Rudkin taking the Chair of the meeting.)**

Election of the following officers was proposed by Frances Foster and seconded by Michael Clatworthy

Chairman: Mrs Linda Biddle. Secretary: Post vacant.

Treasurer: Mrs Margaret Connor Membership Secretary: Mrs Margaret Connor.

Programme Secretary: Post vacant. Fieldfare editor: Hendrina Willoughby-Ellis.

Honorary Vice-Chairman: Peter Scott.

 6b**. Election of committee.**

En bloc re-election of the following existing committee members was proposed by Linda Biddle and seconded by Anthony Biddle.

Gill Chiverton, Dave Cotter, Jenny Harris, Derick Hill, John Bristow, Linda Brown and Richard Brown.

Election of the following new committee members was proposed by Dawn Whitefield and seconded by Anthony Biddle.

Linda Clark, John Rodgers and Jayne Walker.

Members present unanimously agreed to these elections.

1. **Fieldfare Production and Editing.**
2. It was noted that Hendrina Willoughby-Ellis will be retiring as editor after the May 2019 issue of Fieldfare.
3. Richard and Linda Brown will take over editorship from the August 2019 issue. This will require professional typesetting for at least the August issue.
4. Fieldfare issues will be reduced from 6 per year to 4 per year.

Members present noted and agreed to these changes.

1. **Any Other Business**
2. Leicester and Rutland Environmental Records Centre. Sue Timms is planning a meeting of a group of recorders from Leicestershire and Rutland to discuss and regularise how records are submitted. A volunteer was sought to attend the meeting on Wednesday 6th March
3. **Date of next AGM.**

Tuesday 3rd March 2020.