

SANDWICH BAY BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR 2016 HELD AT THE FIELD CENTRE

ON SUNDAY MAY 21ST 2017 AT 2.00 P.M.

- Members present:** - Sally Hunter; Ian Hunter; Bob Philpott, Sue Philpott; Bob Dean; Jeff Wynn; Mike Briggs; Lesley Lovelady; Heather Slights; Mary Rudge; Sue Smith; Nick Douet; Margaret Douet; F.Spanton; Steffan Walton; Nigel Hefford; Kay Lunn; Martin Shepherd; Yvonne Cutt; Henry Stanier; Christine Donnelly; Andrew Lipczynski; Rosemary Lipczynski; Mike Sykes; John Websper; John Buckingham; Sheila Creasey; Vanessa Dent; Christopher Dent; Ian Hodgson; Keith Ellis; Nick Smith; Jane Relton; Brian Baltera; Elizabeth Baltera; Roger Jones; June Jolly; Ken Chapman; Karen Bartlett (39)
- Apologies for absence:** - Sue Bennett; Barry Brooks; Ann Harrison Brooks; Peter Dean; Rebecca Johnson; David Hunter; Julia Hunter; John Hollyer; Alistair Henderson
- Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for 2015, held on June 5th 2016**

(A copy of these minutes are filed in the folder available to members at the back of the main meeting hall of the Field Centre): -

These minutes were taken as read and approved as a true and accurate record.

- Any matters arising from the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on June 5th 2017:** - There were no matters arising.
- Chairman's report for 2016**

Reported verbatim

Welcome to all members to the 2016 AGM.

I intend to keep my remarks as short as I can. Those of you present will doubtless have read all about the things that have been going on over the past year through your Newsletters, 'Baybites' and the web-site and I know that a growing number of people are visiting our Twitter and Facebook areas.

This is my first report as Chair to the Observatory's AGM – the first, that is, since my last ones which were in 1970 -1972 when I was last in this position – 44 to 46 years ago! When I look at the Annual Reports of those dim and distant years I notice that we were concerned about such issues as the plans for the forthcoming Hoverport in Pegwell Bay; our frustration about the delays in the purchases of land that were to form the first of the Nature Reserves at Pegwell and the constant problem of pressures by members of the public on the beach north of the Estate. Well, the Hoverport came and went, Pegwell is now protected by National Nature Reserve status - but the people-pressure is still there. The Observatory itself was also a very different place then. The entire membership amounted to less than 50 people, of which about 20 are still alive and, of those, about 6 are still more or less active around the Observatory!

2016 at the Observatory produced the usual range of interesting bird records, enough to cater for all tastes. Early in the year a wintering Dartford Warbler along the beach attracted a lot of interest and there were a range of birds of prey to be seen. In March the migration season started, several weeks earlier, it seems, than in the not-so distant past. One interesting March record from the ringers was of a Blue Tit which had been first ringed in Lithuania. This is apparently the longest-distance recovery for Blue Tit in Britain and reminds us that ringing continues to have the capacity to produce new scientific information. By April the Spring migration was well under way and delivered a sprinkling of rarities including the area's 3rd-ever Savi's Warbler, a Long-billed Dowitcher and assorted records of Common Crane, Purple Heron and Glossy Ibis. Later in the Spring, a couple of Bee-eaters added a splash of the exotic for the lucky finder. By contrast, the Autumn passage produced perhaps fewer unusual birds but there were good numbers of Yellow-browed Warblers and for the sea-watching aficionados, the Bay (for once) produced some decent numbers of seabirds including sightings of good numbers such scarce species as Velvet Scoter and Greater Scaup.

Work on other areas of wildlife study also proceeded – moths, butterflies and dragonflies took up most of the attention, of course, but members are also developing interest in other groups – bees and shield-bugs spring to mind - and more people seem to becoming aware of, and interested in, the diverse flora of the area.

During 2016 your Council agreed on a Development Plan for the Observatory, which concentrates on identifying our current and longer-term priorities and setting up ways of working towards meeting them. We have already achieved some of the targets that we set ourselves and are working on most of the others. For example, the massive task of digitising our past bird records is proceeding steadily, ably led by Karen, and similar work is being done for the moths and the ringing records. We have produced leaflets giving checklists on such groups as the mammals, bees and shield-bugs of the area. We made a major improvement in our capacity for recording birds and other groups by the appointment in December of Steffan Walton as our Assistant Warden and, sparing his blushes, I can say that he has made a big and positive impact since starting here in an official paid capacity from March of this year. We are seeking to strengthen our links with other organisations who share our aims in the study and conservation of wildlife. We are also working on improvements to the facilities around the Observatory building for the benefit of members and visitors alike – for example, we are looking at ways of installing bi-folding internal doors between the entrance lobby / shop area and the main meeting room. On top of all of this there is the on-going routine maintenance that is needed to keep the building weatherproof and looking clean and smart – painting of window-frames, re-laying of the concrete path around the building, repairs to the tower are just some example of this.

I referred earlier to how different the Observatory was 40-odd years ago. It was also a lot easier in those days to go through a list of people who needed to be thanked. All of them could be covered in just a few sentences! Nowadays, that task is a very different proposition. The Observatory has expanded so much in its membership and range of activities that if I tried to individually thank everyone who has contributed their time, energy, thought and commitment over the past year, this would be a very long report indeed. So, I am just going to say a huge group 'Thank You' from myself on behalf of the Council, to all of you - our Warden, Ian; members; volunteers in so many different areas; members of Council; the ringers; the conservation team; local landowners; our neighbours on the Estate, and everyone else that I have missed - whoever you are, who have done so much for the Observatory over the last year to help in making it another successful year. I would like to make one important exception to this 'group thank', however, and officially and personally thank Karen Bartlett, who is standing down from the Observatory Council after many years' service. Her work over the years on maintaining the Observatory's membership database, on the Newsletter, on Baybites, Recorder 6 and on the web-site – and much else besides - have been absolutely invaluable

and she is going to be greatly missed. Fortunately, she has agreed to carry on with a lot of this work as a non-Council member and for that we all should be very grateful.

6. Secretary's report for 2016 (read out in absentia)

In the absence of the Secretary her report was read out verbatim by Trustee Nigel Hefford.

A lot has happened since I became secretary in June 2016, the main thing being, is that I have learned that the role of secretary involves more than taking minutes at Council meetings! I am grateful for the patience and support of colleagues in my new post.

Council meetings take place on the second Monday of every month.

Minutes and agenda of all the Council's meetings are held in a file at the back of the hall and members are welcomed to read them

Membership in 2016

There were 550 memberships in 2016 (until the end of August when 2017 membership started) This roughly equates to 750 members. This number has remained more or less consistent since 2014.

The main groups were as follows:

Senior	200
Individual	145
Joint Senior	104
Family	96

(numbers provided by the Membership Secretary)

Area 5 in the new Development Plan includes the target of increasing the number of younger members.

Liaison with Visitors

During 2016, the Observatory had a wide variety of visitors ranging from the Marylebone Bird Watching Society to a weekend in October when all of our accommodation was booked by the Scouts and Cubs. In September we hosted a briefing day for National Trust wardens and there was also a visit from RSPB Medway.

Shop

Although the volume of sales in our shop is modest, the Shop volunteers play an important *Meet and Greet* role and in the recruitment of new members as well as selling shop items. Bird seed and confectionary and drinks continue to be best sellers. The Shop Team is now becoming increasingly multi-tasking with its help on maintenance work on the premises. We had a massive clear out of the seed shed and weather treated several of the outbuildings. I'm not sure how it happened but the team's remit also now involves putting up the Christmas decorations!

Library.

So far approximately 900 items have been entered on the library catalogue. This is an on-going process and now that the book stock is completed, the journals are being processed. If anyone

would like to take a look in the library, I would be happy to show them. Thanks are due to Janet Green who has helped me in this work

Fund Raising

During the year the Clubs and Fund raising arranged a series of quizzes and the new format Open Day in August was a success. The Wednesday and Thursday night Club programme started in September, proved very popular and raised considerable income. Holidays to Spain and the Isles of Scilly took place.

Being Council's secretary has been an eye opener in seeing just how many hours members and Trustees put in for the Observatory.

These are not just in the ringing and recording work but also in the digitisation of records, the conservation work, the premises and garden maintenance, the accounts, grant applications, the membership databases, the holiday planning, the Moth nights, Wex and Phoenix, the Photographic exhibition, the Back wall displays, the production of the Annual Report, the Web site & Facebook, Newsletters, the Club nights and Friday & Sunday walks, Gift aid administration, selling items on eBay and last but not least the Car parking! Thank you to all those involved. You know who you are!

7. Treasurer's report for 2016

(Reported verbatim)

You should have in front of you copies of the simplified accounts for the year. These have been independently examined and agreed, and the published version (all 15 pages) is available here for review, should any member wish to do so. This official version has been lodged with the Charities Commission, and is available on line for anyone to view or download.

The results for the financial year ending 31st December 2016 show an overall deficit of £9,880, after depreciation of £11,600. This is the first time that we have shown a deficit since 2010.

The net Current Asset position has increased by £1,720 to £129,877.

Income for 2016 (as published – bear in mind that in the accounts before you, some items are shown with Income & expenditure netted off) has for the first time topped £200,000 – over double the 2010 figure. Expenditure has similarly doubled. Much of these increases are due to the holidays and trips which we now run.

An overview of our main income streams compared to 2015, shows that Membership income has dropped by £500, Hostel receipts dropped by £5,500, donations dropped by £1,000. Hostel in 2016 did not benefit from the long-term stayers that we had in 2015 (George Blake (£2,500) and Rare Species (£2,000+)).

The clubs and walks have generated an additional £2,000 this year, but costs have also risen (albeit partly through a change of accounting methods), leaving a net increase of £1,000. The net income from the Open Day and the raffle have increased by £1,000, thus vindicating the decision to only have one day rather than a week-end this year. Our income from the RPA grants has increased by £2,300, but this is partly due to some of the grant having been paid very late in respect of 2015, and thus rolling into 2016.

The huge increase has come in the holiday income – a rise of £52,000. This figure is very misleading, as it includes many deposits for 2017 trips – these however do not affect the profit / deficit position, as they are treated as creditors until such time as the trip takes place. The net surplus for the holidays has dropped by £4,000, solely due to not running a long-haul holiday in 2016. All the other holidays were well supported and contributed similar surpluses as in 2015.

Most other income streams remained constant.

On the expenditure side, much has also remained constant, but there was a drop in computer costs of £1,200 as we did not have to replace/purchase any in 2016. An increase in the running costs of the Land Rover of c.£1,000 merely reflects the cost of maintaining such an old vehicle.

The cost of the reserves is boosted this year as we decided to invest in a plastic wood boardwalk in the Haven, at a cost of £5,500. Hopefully this will be an enduring investment and will eliminate the continual repairs required of the original wooden boardwalk as well as protecting the health & safety of the users; luckily we had no major fencing projects during this year.

The ringing costs for the year are rather high, but we did order rings late in the year (c.£4,000), stocks of which will keep us in good stead in 2017.

I have been asked about the effectiveness of the Solar panels on the accounts. They were installed in December 2014 at a cost of £33,500.

Our income for the first two years was £3,543 & £3,710. Our Electricity bills for the three years 2012-2014 were £2,650, £2,892 and £3,896 – an average of £3,146 per annum. The past two years has seen the electricity bills drop to £1,732 & £1,736 – a saving of £1,410 per year. If you were to say average income was £3,600 & electricity savings £1,400 – this gives you a £5,000 improvement to our accounts (less the depreciation charge of £2,233 per annum). If anyone knows where you can get a better return than that, please see me afterwards!

I would like to pass on the Treasurer's thanks to all those who work so hard generating funds for the Bay : Mike Briggs, John Buckingham and Ken Chapman for running the holidays; Mike and Ken again and Andrew Lipczynski and Graham Goodwin for organising the walks; Vanessa Dent and her team for the Open Day; Karen Bartlett for monitoring the Membership; Eugene Hood for the Gift Aid claim; Andrew Lipczynski for managing to make sense of the RPA Grant requirements; Sue Bennett and her team for running the shop (including all the volunteers who man it day-to-day). Maggie Douet for the Wine & Wisdoms, and Maggie and her team for running the accommodation, ably assisted by Ian Hodgson on the admin side, who is also Tea money monitor and organiser of the Turnstone survey, which again brought in £2,500 this year. Thanks also to Nigel Hefford for disposing of our surplus equipment on e-bay and finally thanks to Maggie and her team for organising the WEX and Phoenix groups. If I have missed anyone, please accept my apologies.

It is quite likely that 2017 will also show a deficit. This was a known result of our decision to employ an assistant Warden - a decision based on Ian's announcement that he is to retire in 2018 and our belief that we should be planning for that.

2017 is my 13th year as Treasurer & prior to that I was Treasurer for 6 years in the 80s & 90s as well as Chairman for 2 years and Secretary for 2 years (albeit I was hopeless at both those jobs!)

My first year as Treasurer (1985) started with the assets of the Bay standing at £1,863.28 and a turnover of £6,067.73 – it's grown a bit since then!

I'm fairly sure that no one else has held one of the Officers' positions for that length of time, and it's time for me to take a break. I would therefore like to give notice that I shall not be standing for the Treasurer's position at the next AGM. Hopefully this will allow plenty of time to twist an arm or two to persuade someone to take over. Whoever does will get my full support until they are confident and capable to continue unaided, if that is what they want.

If you have any questions – now is the time.

There were no questions from members present.

8. Warden's report for 2016

The Observatory Warden, Ian Hodgson, delivered the following report on 2016.

(Reported verbatim)

Having enjoyed a fairly pleasant start to 2017 with plenty of early records of birds, plants, butterflies and moths it is hard to recall that the first half of 2016 was so unpleasant, with cold weather lasting until the middle of June. Winter highlights included unusual numbers of Little Gulls in January and at least 3 wintering Firecrests.

March brought departing Chaffinches and Starlings and a Lithuanian-ringed Blue Tit; the longest British recovery of this species on record and additionally interesting in view of the recent records of northern Long-tailed Tits. Harbour Porpoises were also seen at the end of the month; a feature that has become regular in the last few years. A cold April was improved by a Long-billed Dowitcher, a Purple Heron and only the Bay's third Savi's Warbler in Pegwell. Apart from the first week of the month, May was also cold, although the second half of the month did bring a couple of Montagu's Harriers and a Bee-eater. Although warmer weather arrived in mid-June, the BMS transect totals at the end of the month were the third poorest in ten years of study.

However, summer was hot and sunny and by the end of the butterfly season transect numbers had improved so much that 2016 was the second best year in the last ten, surpassed only by the Painted Lady year of 2009. There were also record numbers of Willow Emerald Damselfly, a species recorded for the first time at the Bay only two years ago.

Birds included remarkable numbers of Mediterranean Gulls, of which there were 431 on a field between the Green Wall and New Downs in early August. Of course, hot and cloudless weather might be good for the tourist economy but it brought largely disappointing numbers of migrants, which presumably passed over more or less unhindered, while the Estate looked as dry as the African savannah where many of them would have been heading for. However, the north flood on New Downs brought more than a few crumbs of comfort, with unprecedented numbers of Dunlins, Oystercatchers and Redshanks and very good numbers of other waders that included two Temminck's Stints. Notable breeding records included Short-eared Owl, Avocet and, for the first time in the recent history of the Bay, Black-headed Gull.

Late September did bring the best spell of autumn, including a probable three Barred Warblers, even though it remained probable, a near-record influx of Yellow-browed Warblers and an Arctic Warbler in Pegwell, at one point viewable at the same time as a Nightjar! The Yellow-browed Warbler influx continued into October, which was settled with light winds and consequently poor for migrants, the best of which was a Richard's Pipit on the 12th and at least five Dartford Warblers in the final week.

A wet and windy first half of November was arguably the best spell of the year, with both taiga and tundra Bean Geese in the area – splittable in January 2018 but not yet! 6 Little Auks were seen in a varied seawatch on the 7th, a Long-tailed Duck turned up shortly after, two Slavonian Grebes were seen offshore and a record 1,550 Teal were on the scrape; remarkable in view of the fact that the previous record was less than 800. Around 20 Scaup appeared with a mixed flock of diving ducks off Pegwell and by mid-December the offshore scoter flock had increased to 142 Commons and 16

Velvets. Significantly, 320 Cormorants were at the Point, a precursor of record numbers that were to be seen in early 2017. There has been much speculation that these increases are associated with improved breeding conditions for fish and other aquatic animals among the underwater structures associated with the offshore wind farms.

Last but not least, I should welcome Steffan Walton, until now a winter visitor and occasional autumn migrant but who has now become part and parcel of the SBBO set-up, beginning his spell as Assistant Warden in March this year.

9. Ringing report for 2016

The Observatory's Senior Ringer, Ian Hunter, delivered the following report on ringing activities in 2016.

(Reported verbatim)

Good afternoon.

What a difference a year makes! In 2016 we ringed 7692 birds of 70 species, compared to 11,014 birds of 76 species in 2015. For the second year all of these were ringed within the Observatory's main recording area, or within half a mile of it. The number of birds is around the average for the last decade.

The most ringed species was Blackcap, with 1301, closely followed by Chiffchaff, with 1156. The latter is the highest ever Bay total. This year there was no massive passage of Siskins-35 ringed, or Goldcrest-337 ringed.

A total of 195 Sand Martins is probably the highest ever ringed on passage at the Bay. Previous high numbers were at colonies or going to roost.

Autumn passage was notable for the number of Robins (395) and thrushes (Blackbird 488, Fieldfare 40, Song Thrush 100 and Redwing 93).

Amongst the more unusual species ringed were Swift 1, Ring Ousel 2, Icterine Warbler 1, Yellow-browed Warbler 8 and Common Redpoll 5.

For the second year a late Lesser Whitethroat was confirmed to be of the Siberian race, blythi. Thank you to Professor Martin Collinson at Aberdeen University for analysing that.

There were a number of interesting movements, numbers of which were greatly enhanced by a handful of observers who take the time to report colour ring sightings to us. The latter include Brent Goose, Spoonbill, Tufted Duck, Turnstone, Herring Gull and Great Black-backed Gull. These often provide interesting reading as they often have a trail of sightings along their migration path.

The Brent Goose runs to four sheets since it was first ringed in Iceland.

Two particularly interesting movements were a Robin ringed in Kovda, Murmansk, Russia on 26/8/2015 and caught here on 30/10/16. 531 days later and 2460km to the SW. This is the longest movement for a Robin on the BTO scheme. Secondly a Blue Tit ringed as an adult at Ventes Ragas, Lithuania on 13/9/2015 and caught here on 23/3/2016. 190 days and 1389 km WSW later.

We were part of a group of coastal sites contributing to a Public Health England study of viruses carried by ticks parasitising migrant birds. Indeed one was collected from the Russian Robin! We await the results with interest.

We also colour ring House Sparrows and Collared Doves- both species difficult to retrap, as part of the national Retrapping Adults for Survival survey.

So far 323 House Sparrows have been ringed generating 1024 records from 165 birds. 127 Collared Doves have generated 261 records from 35 birds.

I would like to thank the small group of individuals who take the time to record their observations. This project was set up as a citizen science project to give any observer the opportunity to contribute useful data to a national study. One or two people have found it difficult to read the rings but have got around this by photographing them and reading from that.

The big project over the winter was dismantling and then rebuilding the walkway along the Haven. A big thank you to the Conservation team for their help in removing the old wood. Also thank you to the Trust committee for deciding to support this by investing in the more expensive but longer lived recycled plastic wood made by Plasteco.

Our ringers continue to support the other ringing groups in the county and in doing so gain invaluable experience.

Finally, I would like to thank local landowners Richard Daw, Royal St Georges Golf Club and Tim Laughlin who continue to allow us access to their land.

10. SBBOT constitution – proposed changes

The Chairman explained that following discussion in Council the following changes were being proposed: -

- a. In section 3 that covers membership, the following introduction is to be inserted:

Membership of the Trust shall be open to any person who supports the objectives of the Trust as described in Paragraph 2. (above)

It was explained that the existing Constitution does not prohibit anyone from joining the Observatory Trust, *even if they do not support it's aims and objectives.*

It is felt this will clarify the situation.

Secondly a tidying up of an introductory paragraph to each category of membership is proposed to avoid duplication.

- b. Section 5 is to be changed to read: -

The Trust shall hold an Annual General Meeting in May of each year or, in exceptional circumstances, no later than the end of June in each year, as decided by the Council of the Trust.

It was explained that this is proposed in order to clarify when the AGM should normally be held. The existing section 5 refers to February as being the month for the AGM. It also refers to the Trust's inaugural meeting in 1985 which it was suggested could be removed.

- c. Section 16 should be revised to read: -

Minutes of all meeting of the Trust and the Council shall be kept in both electronic and hard copy formats. At every meeting of the Trust or the Council, the minutes of the last meeting of the

Trust or the Council (as the case may be) shall be read and if confirmed by the meeting, signed by the Chair.

It was explained this is being proposed in recognition of the fact that we now use computers.

- d. Section 28 to be revised by the addition of the word “*first*” before “*Annual General Meeting after that date.*”

It was explained that this was to clarify that the accounts **must** be presented at the **first** AGM after they are presented to Council.

- e. Section 31 to be revised by inserting ***Trust’s Annual General Meeting*** before “*by a two thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote*”

It was explained that this is suggested to clarify that it is only at the Trust’s Annual General Meeting that changes to the rules can be proposed.

Having explained the proposed changes, the Chairman that asked if there were any questions. Nick Smith who asked why the AGM was held so late in the year. In reply The Treasurer explained that it was difficult to obtain fully audited account for a February AGM. He also asked that in section 31 we also insert ***Extraordinary General Meeting*** after the above change. John Websper asked if those renewing their subscriptions by direct debit would be aware of the changes. He was advised that the annual membership renewal form, received by all members, would be altered to indicate relevant changes in the constitution. There was also discussion on how many members were required to call an EGM, currently 15. The proposal was made that this should be increased to 15% of the membership.

Nick Douet proposed that the above changes to the Constitution should be accepted, and this was seconded by John Websper. The changes were then carried by a unanimous show of hands.

11. Tim Garland award for 2016

The Chairman started by describing the origin of the award to those unfamiliar with it’s history. He then went on to explain that the winner is voted for by previous award winners, and it was also explained that non-Council members can nominate members for the award.

The Chairman then went on to state that the award was being given to Alistair Henderson for his tireless and time consuming work in digitising past records.

12. Election of officers and trustees for 2017 – 2018

At this point the Chairman stood down, and the stand-in Secretary informed those present that he was standing for re-election (proposed by Mike Briggs and seconded by Sue Bennett). Those present were then asked to vote on this, his re-election carried by a unanimous show of hands. The Chairman then explained to the meeting that nominations, duly proposed and seconded had been received to fill the Trust’s Honorary posts, and that all existing Officers and Trustees (with one exception – Karen Bartlett) were standing for re-election. There was one new nomination for the position of Trustee namely Bob Dean.

It was proposed to elect all of the nominated person’s *en bloc*, and this was duly carried by a unanimous show of hands.

The Observatory's Honorary Officers for 2017 – 2018 are: -

President: - Bill Oddie

Vice Presidents: - Mike Sykes & John Websper

Patrons: - Justin Villeneuve & Sue Timney de Villeneuve

The Observatory Council for 2017 – 2018 are: -

Chairman: - Ken Chapman

Vice Chairman: - Mike Briggs

Secretary: - Sue Bennett

Treasurer: - Keith Ellis

Other Trustees: - John Buckingham; Bob Dean; Peter Dean; Vanessa Dent; Sarah Fawcett; Nigel Hefford; Alistair Henderson; Eugene Hood; Ian Hunter; Sally Hunter; Becky Johnson; Andy Keen; Andrew Lipczynski; Nick Smith

13. Any other business

There were three questions properly submitted by Nick Douet as detailed below: -

1. *Subscription change / increases.*

His main suggestion was that the Trust should reconsider the current subscription rates with a view to attracting younger members. During the discussion that followed it was stated that the subs were last increased 3 years ago, and John Websper and Karen Bartlett advised caution as membership fell after the last increase. It was agreed that Council would consider the question of Subscription rates at their next meeting.

2. *What are our ringers' plans for the new ringing area in the dragonfly pond field?*

3. *Is the dragonfly pond a white elephant or are there really plans to make it work?*

General discussion followed on these two questions at which the following points were made.

- a. The land was acquired on a 10-year lease from Dick Dawes of which there was 5 years remaining.
- b. The area was developing very slowly, and the hawthorn trees/bushes that had been planted hadn't grown as well as had been anticipated.
- c. The dragonfly pond had thrown up some interesting species, but was very dependent on water levels, and only developing very slowly.
- d. We were able to claim funds annually for land management, which meant that leasing the land was at a minimal cost.
- e. It was considered a valuable wildlife asset, especially if we were ever at risk of losing other sites.
- f. Access to the sites needed to be greatly improved (the main gate is currently padlocked). Kissing gates need installing between Jubilee Wood and the dragonfly pond field.

It was agreed that this would be discussed at Council.

With no further question the Chairman declared the Annual General Meeting to be closed at 15.35.