

**SOMERSET ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT 7.30 P.M. ON 14th APRIL 2016
AT RUISHTON HALL**

1. Apologies for absence were received from Alan Ashman, Stephen Moss, Eve Tigwell and Gus Robin.
2. Minutes of the AGMs of 16th April 2015 were read and agreed as a true record. Proposed by Julian Thomas and seconded by Brian Gibbs.
3. There were no matters arising.
4. President's Report.

Roger Dickey welcomed all those present to the AGM and apologised for his absence at the previous year's Meeting. He thanked Rob Grimmond for his work on the new website, Brian Gibbs, Julian Thomas and the Editorial Committee for the Annual Report, Brian Hill and Stephen Moss for arranging and administering Field and Indoor Meetings and the General Committee generally for their work.

In the previous year the Society had provided support to local bird projects such as the Shapwick Heath tower, Carymoor winter feed and the updat to The Birds of Exmoor and The Quantocks. There had been a useful meeting with SERC concerning exchange of information.

Plans for the next year were varied, and included building on the success of the new website, introducing surveys as an activity of the Society, changing the format of future AGMs and bringing the constitution of the Society up to date with a President and Chairman and fewer Vice-Chairmen.

5. Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer Jeff Hazell read through the financial statement which had been presented and signed by an independent examiner as a true record. Jeff said the Society's finances continued to be healthy, with over £13,000 in the Bank at the end of 2015, largely boosted by Bird Atlas sales. Sponsorship payments in 2015 were £200 to David Ballance for The Birds of Exmoor and The Quantocks, £500 to Exmoor Park Authority and £200 to Carymoor for bird food.

The report was accepted, proposed by Alison Everett and seconded by Brian Hill.

Jeff also gave an update on membership, which stood at 480 as at the end of 2015. with 30 new members. A total of 30 members were still paying at the old rate. Jeff said he would write to those people asking them to pay or cancel their standing order.

6. Indoor Meetings and Field Meetings reports
7. Rule Changes

It was proposed that the first paragraph of Rule 5 of the Somerset Ornithological Society Rules should be deleted and replaced by two new paragraphs, as follows:

"Each Annual General Meeting of the Society shall elect a Chairman, one or more Secretaries, a Treasurer, Recorder and Assistant Recorder. These shall be termed the Officers of the Society and shall be eligible for re-election. The General Committee may propose an Honorary President of the Society for election at the Annual General Meeting. Such Honorary President shall hold office for

five years and be eligible for re-election. The President may offer advice and guidance to the General Committee, but shall not be entitled to vote at its meetings.

The General Committee may also propose up to three Vice Presidents of the Society for election at the Annual General Meeting. Such Vice Presidents shall hold office for five years and be eligible for re-election. At the culmination of their terms, Honorary Presidents and Vice Presidents may be offered Life Membership of the Society. Vice Presidents who are not an Officer may offer advice and guidance to the General Committee, but shall not be entitled to vote at its meetings

After discussion, the said proposal, proposed by Julian Thomas and seconded by Jeff Hazell was accepted by a majority of those present.

8. Election of Officers and Committee Members.

Elections of the following were endorsed by the Meeting:

President: Stephen Moss,

Vice-Presidents: David Ballance and Brian Hill

Chairman: Roger Dickey,

Hon Secretary: Rob Grimmond

Treasurer: Jeff Hazell

Indoor Meetings Secretary: Brian Hill

Field Meetings Secretary: Alison Everett

Recorder: Brian Gibbs

Assistant Recorder: Julian Thomas

Rarities Committee Secretary: James Packer

Rarities Committee Members: Brian Gibbs, Julian Thomas, Nick Wall and Bruce Taylor

Surveys Secretary: Simon Breeze

Committee Member: Dave Dawe (to replace Bruce Taylor, who had resigned).

9. Any other business

It was reported that the new Tower Hide at Shapwick Heath was due to open on 28th April.

There followed, after an interval, a talk by David Ballance on the Birds of Exmoor.

19 people attended the meeting.