

**Minutes of the 146th Annual General Meeting of the Hertfordshire Natural
History Society
held online at 10.04am on Saturday 27 November 2021**

1: Welcome: HNHS Chair, Peter Tallantire welcomed 40 or more Society members to the AGM which – due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic – took place online. He thanked Dan Fletcher for ‘hosting’ the meeting using Zoom software.

2: Apologies: Ian Carle, Michael and Anna Clark, June Crew, Lesley Davies, Ian Denholm, Eirwen Edwards, Gordon Glen, Claudia Harflett, Judy Howlett, David Johnson, Nick Pierpoint, David and Rose Seabrook, Christine Shepperson, Tom Speller, (Four members submitted proxy votes for the AGM resolutions that were cast for them by the Chair)

3: Minutes of the 145th AGM held on 28 November 2020 were agreed (*nem con*) as a correct record. *Proposer: Linda Smith. Seconder: Ian Denholm.*

4: Matters Arising: none.

5: Report of the Management Committee for 2020/21 – Peter Tallantire introduced the report, which had previously been published in the 2021 *Hertfordshire Naturalist* and also circulated online to members. Peter’s main points included:

- Restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid-19 continued to inhibit survey activities and led to cancellation of the 2021 Festival of Wildlife. However, the Society organised a successful online AGM in November 2021 and Bird conference in March 2021. The Bird Cub organised a popular garden birdwatch competition and other challenges.
- During Covid lockdown, people spent more time observing wildlife in their local areas. There was a 25 per cent increase in bird records submitted during 2020.
- Survey work for the Mammal, Amphibian and Reptile Atlas (Herts MARA) has been extended into 2022
- Despite many years of work by the Bird Club to conserve the Tree Sparrow colony at Tyttenhanger, the birds’ situation is perilous. In addition to becoming the last colony in the Southeast they are under threat from proposals by Hertsmere Borough Council’ to earmark much of their breeding site for 6,000 homes. The Society is supporting the Bird Club’s involvement in a working group taking practical steps, with funding from the would-be developers, to protect the Tree Sparrows. Given the exceptional circumstances, HNHS is also formally opposing the scale of the intended development in a response to Hertsmere Council’s draft Local Plan.
- Congratulations go to Judy England and Clifford Smout respective editors of the *Hertfordshire Naturalist 2021* and *Hertfordshire Bird Report 2020*, which were published in autumn 2021. Thanks also to Jack Fearnside for his excellent design work on both reports
- Membership remains historically high at more than 500. The society was sad to record the deaths during the year of Janine Tyler, Colin Clark and Rob Harris
- Thanks go the HNHS Management Committee for their hard work, and particularly David Utting, as Secretary and Geoff Hill who stood down as Membership Secretary during the year for personal reasons. Martin Ketcher kindly agreed to take over the role.
- The committee welcomed Alex Waechter, the new Manager of the Herts Environmental Records Centre as a co-opted member and was delighted Chris James agreed to be nominated to join the committee at an AGM to be followed by presentation of the first Trevor James Award for an outstanding Herts naturalist – renamed in memory of her late husband.

The Management Committee report was approved (*nem con*). *Proposer: Christine Shepperson. Seconder: Ken Smith.*

6: Annual Accounts for 2020/21 – Dan Fletcher, the Treasurer, presented accounts that had been previously circulated to members. He said the Society’s financial position remained healthy and that subscriptions would remain unchanged for 2022. At the start of April 2021, the Society held total funds of £100,202 compared with £85,586 the previous year. The increase was largely attributable to an improvement in value of longer-term investments from £42,159 to £51,925. Although the Covid pandemic meant there was no income from meetings there was a net surplus of almost £4,000 in total receipts over total payments for the year. The accounts were unanimously adopted. *Proposer: Stuart Warrington. Seconder: Clifford Smout.*

7: Election of Officers and members of the Management Committee for 2020/21– The following officers and members were elected (*nem con*): Chair, Peter Tallantire; Secretary, David Utting; Treasurer, Dan Fletcher. Members: Agneta Burton, Ian Carle, Ronni Edmonds-Brown, Judy England, Rupert Evershed, Jack Fearnside, Alan Gardiner, Chantal Helm, Tim Hill, Martin Ketcher, Christine James, Alex Waechter
Peter Tallantire, David Utting, Dan Fletcher, Agneta Burton, Ronni Edmonds-Brown, Rupert Evershed, Ian Carle, Alan Gardiner, Tim Hill, Chantal Helm, Christine James and Martin Ketcher would also serve as the charity’s Trustees.
Proposer: June Crew. Seconder: Tom Speller.

8: Other business – none

The meeting closed at 10.22am.

David Utting
HNHS Secretary