Minutes of the 149th Annual General Meeting of the Hertfordshire Natural History Society held at Affinity Water, Hatfield at 4.15pm on Saturday 16 November 2024

1: Welcome: HNHS Chair, Peter Tallantire welcomed 72 members to the AGM

2: Apologies: Katherine Aylett, Bruce and Sally Bennett, Ian Carle, Michael Clark, June Crew, Ian Denholm, Eirwen Edwards, Rupert Evershed, Tom and Janet Gladwin, Liz Goodyear, Chantal Helm, David Laming, Brian Legg, Alla Mashanova, Chris Ruis, Peter Sansom, Christine Shepperson, Linda and Ken Smith, Clifford Smout, Gini Trower, Nigel Taylor.

3: Minutes of the 148th AGM held on 7 October 2023 were agreed as a correct record. *Proposer: Clive Herbert. Seconder: Stuart Warrington.*

4: Matters Arising: none.

5: Report of the Management Committee for 2023/24: Copies were circulated to all members before the meeting. It was subsequently published, with one amendment, in the 2024 *Hertfordshire Naturalist.* Peter Tallantire highlighted the following points:

- In 2025 the Society will celebrate its 150th anniversary. Plans include a spring exhibition at St Albans Museum and a special edition of the *Hertfordshire Naturalist*. An anniversary logo has been designed by Jack Fearnside.
- A conference in September 2023 commemorated the late Trevor James, author of *Flora of Hertfordshire* and *Beetles of Hertfordshire*.
- The 2023 Annual General Meeting approved amendments bringing the Society's constitution up-to-date in relation to online activities, digital communications and avoiding conflicts of interest.
- The Gerald Salisbury Lecture was given in February by Sarah Brockless on the reintroduction of European Beavers at Spains Hall Estate in Essex
- The Bird Conference in March heard talks on the birding importance of the Colne Valley wetlands and Stanborough gravel pits. Thanks go to HNHS events organiser, Tim Hill
- The Society funded a powerful new website for the Herts and Middlesex Moth Group that creates an online atlas which can be routinely updated as records are added.
- The Herts dragonfly and damselfly survey enjoyed a successful second year in 2023 with more than 7,000 records received and 31 species recorded.
- HNHS membership remained steady at around 500 members. Thanks go to Martin Ketcher our Membership Secretary.
- Thanks also go to Stuart Warrington and Clifford Smout, editors, respectively, of the *Hertfordshire Naturalist* and *Herts Bird Report.*
- HNHS long-service awards were presented to Raymond Uffen, entomologist and former Hymenoptera recorder and Peter Delaloye, former HNHS Chairman on his retirement from the Bird club committee.
- With sadness, the Society records the deaths of Mic Wells, former county spider recorder Doug Marriott and Hymenoptera recorder Stephen Lings.
- Thanks go to all members of the management committee for their hard work.

The Management Committee report was approved subject to one amendment. *Proposer: Chris James. Seconder: Jenny Jones.*

6: Annual Accounts for 2023/24: The accounts had been previously circulated to all members and were available at the meeting. The Society held total funds of £108,402 at the start of April 2024 compared with £112,487 a year earlier. This comprised £57,053 in accessible funds and £51,349 in longer-term investments. Receipts for the year totalled £14,879 and payments £18,009. Payments included a generous gift of £1,500 from Letchworth Natural

History Society after it ceased activities. The main item of one-off expenditure was £5,800 for a new website for the Herts & Middlesex Moth Group. In discussion, a significant reduction in subscription income was noted since the previous year. This was the result of efforts to collect overdue subscriptions and a misallocation of some dividend income during 2022/23. A comparison between subscription receipts and the number of members supported a view that the 2023/24 accounts being presented were correct.

The accounts were unanimously adopted. *Proposer: Ronni Edmonds-Brown. Seconder: Steve Wilson.*

7: Election of Officers and members of the Management Committee for 2024/25. The following officers and members were elected to serve as trustees: Chair, Peter Tallantire; Secretary, David Utting; Treasurer, Chris Ruis. Members: Agneta Burton, Ian Carle, Ronni Edmonds-Brown, Rupert Evershed, Hanna Grimsdale, Chantal Helm, Tim Hill, Martin Ketcher, Christine James, Alex Waechter & Stuart Warrington.

Proposer: Peter Delaloye. Seconder: Alan Gardiner

10: Other business – none

The meeting closed at 4.37pm.

David Utting
HNHS Secretary