Minutes of the 150th Annual General Meeting of the Hertfordshire Natural History Society held at Affinity Water, Hatfield at 4.25pm on Saturday 18 November 2025

1: Welcome: HNHS Chair, Peter Tallantire welcomed 70 members to the AGM

2: Apologies: Phil Attewell, Katherine Aylett, Steve Carter, June Crew, Lesley Davies, Eirwen Edwards, Tom and Janet Gladwin, George Stodulski

3: Minutes of the 149th AGM held on 16 November 2024 were agreed subject to one amendment to the financial report (accessible funds in April 2024 were £57,053) *Proposer: Agneta Burton. Seconder: Chris James.*

4: Matters Arising: none.

5: Report of the Management Committee for 2024/25: Copies were circulated to all members before the meeting. It was subsequently published, with one amendment, in the 2025 *Hertfordshire Naturalist.* Peter Tallantire highlighted the following points:

- The HNHS reached its 150th anniversary in January. A commemorative exhibition *Wild About Hertfordshire* opened on 20 March at St Albans Museum and ran until early July. Curated by David Utting, it featured the Society's Victorian past, its current role in wildlife recording and future challenges facing Hertfordshire's species and habitats. There was a well-attended launch event and a programme of school holiday wildlife talks. David Utting gave an anniversary lecture. The exhibition attracted more than 17,000 visits and drew many favourable comments.
- The 2024 Autumn Meeting and AGM in November was well-attended and included talks on the changing status of Hertfordshire's butterflies and the preparation of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the county.
- The 2025 Gerald Salisbury Lecture was given in February by entomologist Adrian Dutton on his survey at Panshanger Park revealing its national importance for saproxylic beetles.
- The Bird Conference in March drew a capacity audience for talks on the history of the annual BTO Breeding Birds Survey and latest results from a study of Green Sandpipers at Lemsford Springs.
- The Herts-wide survey of mammals, amphibians and reptiles finished its ten-year recording phase at the end of 2024. Results will be published as an HNHS atlas.
- Survey work for a new atlas of dragonflies and damselflies entered its fourth year.
- Almost four million records have been collected by the Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre (HERC) since 2013. Most have been submitted through the Society.
- The *Hertfordshire Bird Report 2023* was published in November. Thanks go to the editor, Clifford Smout and his team. The *Hertfordshire Naturalist 2024* was published in December 2024 with thanks to Stuart Warrington and the editorial board.

The MC report was approved. *Proposer: Peter Delaloye. Seconder: Haydon Bailey.*

6: Annual Accounts for 2024/25: The accounts had been circulated to all members and were available at the meeting. The Society held total funds of £104,520 at the start of April 2025 compared with £108,402 a year earlier. This comprised £50,977 in accessible deposits and £53,543 in long-term investments. Receipts for the year totalled £12,790 compared with £14,879 the previous year. There were payments of £19.053 compared with £18,009 for

2023/24. Peter Tallantire, as acting Treasurer, said that after allowing for special items of expenditure, including 150th anniversary exhibition costs and re-printing two atlases, it was clear the Society remained comfortably solvent, with subscription income covering recurring costs. He highlighted a discrepancy in the accounts dating back to 2022/23 where PayPal sales income had been under-recorded by £184. This had been rectified and notified to the Charity Commission.
The accounts were adopted. *Proposer: Stuart Warrington. Seconder: Chris James.*

7: Election of Officers and members of the Management Committee for 2025/26. The following officers and members were elected to serve as trustees: Chair, Peter Tallantire; Secretary, David Utting; Treasurer, Harry Tallantire. Members: Agneta Burton, Ian Carle, Ronni Edmonds-Brown, Rupert Evershed, Hanna Grimsdale, Tim Hill, Martin Ketcher, Christine James, Alex Waechter & Stuart Warrington.

Proposer: Steve Wilson. Seconder: Roy Woodward

Peter thanked committee members who had served for the past year, including Chantal Helm who was stepping down after more than ten years' service. He thanked all members who gave their time to raise awareness of the Society and wildlife recording locally.

10: Other business – none

The meeting closed at 4.41pm.

David Utting
HNHS Secretary