

HERTFORDSHIRE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

HNHS/75M

75th Management Committee Meeting

Tuesday 5 September 2023 online via Zoom conferencing

Present: Agneta Burton, Ronni Edmonds-Brown, Tim Hill, Chris James, Martin Ketcher, Chris Ruis (Treasurer), Peter Tallantire (Chair), David Utting (Secretary) & Stuart Warrington.

1. **Apologies:** Ian Carle, Rupert Evershed, Jack Fearnside, Chantal Helm, Alex Waechter

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 July 2023 were approved. Matters arising:

a) Hertfordshire Naturalist: Stuart said almost all this year's reports and articles had been forward to Jack for design. Agneta and David would help check the proofs.

Action: Agneta, David, Jack, Stuart

b) Herts Moth Group website: Colin Plant had been given the go ahead for the new website. He had provided requested assurances that data on the site would be routinely backed-up and that arrangements would be in place access its inner workings if the developer was unavailable. All data would continue to be made available to HERC and the HNHS funding would be acknowledged on the front page of the site. Peter stressed that funding a website where the tetrad mapping was routinely updated did not preclude the possibility of publishing an atlas in book form in future. David recorded Colin's thanks for the Society's support.

3. Annual accounts for 2022-23

The committee thanked Dan Fletcher for preparing the accounts, marking his final contribution as Treasurer before handing over to Chris R. Peter, introducing the accounts, said they showed a continuing, healthy situation, with no obvious need to raise subscriptions for 2024. Total funds at the end of March 2023 were £112,487 compared with £107,777 a year earlier. Receipts during 2022-3 totalled £16,565 – well below the Charity Commission's £25,000 threshold requiring the accounts to be independently verified. £11,857 of the total came from members' subscriptions. Total expenditure was £8,449, of which £4,073 was the cost of producing and distributing the Society's annual publications.

The committee agreed that the accounts be presented to the AGM on 7 October 2023 for approval.

4. Annual awards

Two formal nominations had been received. After discussion, it was agreed that the Trevor James Award should be offered to Peter Wilkinson for outstanding work providing nest boxes for owls across Hertfordshire and ringing the young birds. Tim would notify him, write a formal citation and contact Jack about designing the award crystals. The 1875 Award would be offered to Liz Goodyear, recognising many years as Secretary of the Herts and Middlesex branch of Butterfly Conservation promoting public interest in butterflies, and for her research (with London-based naturalist Andrew Middleton) to locate and monitor Purple Emperor, White Hairstreak and other species that were previously considered rare in the county. David would contact Liz and write a citation.

Action Tim, David, Jack

Peter invited committee members to think of individuals who could be considered for future award nominations.

Action: All

5. Trevor James Memorial conference (9 September): final arrangements.

David asked for volunteers to help with refreshments, taking door money and other tasks at the conference in Redbourn. The conference invitation had produced over 60 acceptances. He planned to video record the proceedings for those unable to attend. With thanks to Jack and his former colleague Helen Baker at LTD Design, the re-print of 75 copies of Trevor's *Beetles of Hertfordshire* had already been delivered so the book could be on-sale at the conference. It was agreed this should be offered at cost –£42 instead of £45 charged on the website.

6. Autumn Meeting and AGM (7 October)

Tim said the conference – hosted by Affinity Water at their offices in Hatfield – would take place between 2pm and 5.30pm, with set-up an hour beforehand. He had organised a varied programme: Nadia Bishara founder of St Albans Wilderhood Watch; Tony Booker and Anthony Johns from the Colne Valley Anglers and Conservation task force; Chantal Helm with a MARA update; and Martin Ketcher talking about Water Vole surveying in the Lee Valley Park. Alister Leggatt from Affinity would give an update on local water resources. David was aiming to send the AGM calling notices and papers, together with details of the conference, in the week beginning 11 September. There would be a paper mailing by post for a small number of members not on email, still reaching them more than a week before the minimum 21-day notice period for an AGM.

Action: David

8. AOB

None

Next meeting: 7.30pm Tuesday 21 November at 250 Sandridge Road, St Albans AL1 4AL (and online by request)

David Utting, HNHS Secretary.
19 September 2023