



**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE 55TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD 8.00 PM TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2024 CRUCK BARN BRADWELL**

**AND ON ZOOM**

Thirty two members attended the meeting, either in person or on Zoom.

**Item 2 Draft Minutes of the 2023 AGM**

Amendments were proposed and approved to the 2023 AGM draft minutes.

**Item 3 Matters Arising from the Draft Minutes**

Joe Clinch gave a brief report on the work of the Plant Identification Group. The Group is working on plans for the coming year. The aim of the Group is to stimulate interest in plants and their identification. There will be a presentation on the matter in a forthcoming Members' evening and in due course, a report to the MKNHS Committee.

**Item 4: Officers' Combined Report**

The Report was circulated to members in advance of the AGM and was read out to the meeting by the Secretary. There were no comments on the Report. The Report was approved.

**Item 5: Annual Accounts 2022: Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report was circulated to Members before the AGM. For 2023, total income was £4184.05 and expenditure £3260.14. The Worth of the Society at the end of 2023, was a total of £14081.92. This included the Gordon Osborn Bequest Fund (GOBF) which had a total of £3294.49. The amount available from the GOBF fund for projects was £560.51. Linda advised the meeting that we were operating well within our reserves policy. Linda made a few points about her Report as follows:

Expenditure: Expenditure rose during the year and our two biggest expenditures were on the hire of the Cruck Barn and payments for speakers.

Online Banking: A new account has been set up and within the next few weeks, Linda will provide details to all members of the new bank account.

Subscription Fee: The subscription fee of £25 has not been raised since 2014.

The Treasurer thanked Ann Strutton Examiner for scrutinising the accounts and for assisting in the preparation of the end of year report.

Joe Clinch encouraged the Committee to review the Subscription Fee, given that it has been at the same level for many years. Joe also praised Linda for her continuing work as Treasurer and thanked her for her contribution to the Society.

The Accounts were approved.

#### **Item 6: Election of Officers**

Martin Kincaid announced to the meeting that he was stepping down from the role of Vice President and from the MKNHS Committee. However, he did assure Members that he was 'not going away' and will continue to contribute to the work of the Society as a member. He briefly mentioned the need for 'succession' in the Committee and for other roles in the Society in order that the Society can continue to flourish.

The MKNHS Officers elected were:

*President:* Roy Maycock

*Chair:* Matt Andrews

*Treasurer:* Linda Murphy

*Secretary:* Mervyn Dobbin

#### **Item 7: Election of Other Committee Members**

##### **Current Committee Members:**

Martin Kincaid proposed the election of the current Committee Members who had indicated that they were willing to continue to serve on the Committee: Martine Harvey, Paul Lund, Di Parsons, Charles Kessler, Bob Phillips. Members were duly elected.

##### **Other Nominations:**

Jagoda Zajac was nominated for the Committee and was duly elected.

The membership of the Committee was now: Matt Andrews, Roy Maycock, Linda Murphy, Paul Lund, Mervyn Dobbin, Di Parsons, Martine Harvey, Charles Kessler, Bob Phillips, Jagoda Zajac.

Joe Clinch expressed his gratitude to Martin Kincaid for all the work that he had done for the Society. Joe's sentiment was agreed by all at the meeting.

#### **Item 8: Any Other Business**

##### **Thanks to all from the Chair for their commitment to MKNHS**

Matt Andrews thanked many of the people who had contributed to the vitality and success of the Society over the past year.

##### **A Short Address by the Chair**

Matt gave a short address to the Meeting. Two of the points that he made were as follows:

- Over the past twelve months, the Society has been able to meet its stated aims: to provide a meeting place for people with Natural History interests; to encourage the study and preservation of our flora and fauna; and to provide a forum for Natural History debate.
- The Society hosts wildlife walks and talks throughout the twelve months of the year, including meeting on a weekly basis. The varied programme of activities provides value for money for the £25 annual subscription.

Matt said that with the death of Colin Docketty, a big hole had been left in the Society's activity agenda. Colin had left a legacy for the Society in the form of a huge library of natural history books which his family kindly donated to the Society. These will be available in forthcoming book sales. Many of these publications were specialised and rare and the books will be offered for sale with all the proceeds helping to bolster the Society's funds.

Succession: Matt emphasised the need for continued involvement and contributions by Members in the many practical tasks needed to run the Society, such as being on the Committee. He put out a general call to all and asked Members to think over the coming weeks and months, how they might contribute.

*Mervyn Dobbin Secretary March 2024*