

**MINUTES OF THE 79th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE BRITISH TRUST FOR ORNITHOLOGY**

The 79th Annual General Meeting of the British Trust for Ornithology was held at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick on Saturday 8 December 2018 at 6:00pm. The Chair of the Board, Prof Jenny Gill, presided, and 153 members signed the attendance register.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Chris Packham, Jean Spencer and Ian Owens.

**2. BTO President**

Andy Clements informed the meeting that the President, Chris Packham, had decided, with regret, to step down at the end of the year due to pressure of work commitments. The Board of Trustees, which was now the appointing body for both Presidents and Vice Presidents, would consider the appointment of a replacement over the next few weeks.

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of the 78th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 9 December 2017 were agreed as a correct record, and the Chair signed the minute book.

**4. Annual Report & Accounts**

Prof Gill, as Chair of the Board, introduced the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2018, highlighting some of the significant events and achievements of the year.

Mr Packer, as Honorary Treasurer, introduced the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018, and presented an alternative layout of the group results and balance sheet.

Questions and comments were invited from the floor.

Alistair Whitelaw asked whether the BTO's investment advisors had advised the Board to adjust their policy in the light of possible fallout from Brexit. Mr Packer replied that they had not, however half of the portfolio had been liquidated since the balance sheet date to meet cash flow requirements.

In answer to a written question received from Paul Seligman, Mr Packer explained that contract work continued to make a positive net contribution to funds, although the strategy was to reduce dependence on contracts, particularly public sector contracts, by growing other forms of fund raising.

A resolution to receive the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018 was put to the vote on a show of hands and passed, *nem con*.

**5. Elections**

Stuart Bearhop, Frances Hurst and Jean Spencer's terms of office expired at the end of the year. The Board proposed to reduce the number of Board members to 12, in line with the recommendations of the Governance Review, and to seek an additional term of office for Frances Hurst as chair of the new Governance and Nominations Committee, and

Jean Spencer as chair of the new Finance and Risk Committee. Professor Bearhop had been appointed as a Vice President with effect from 2019.

There being no questions or comments from the floor, the following resolutions were put to the vote, and on a show of hands, passed *nem con*.

- (a) That the number of Board members be reduced to 12.
- (b) That Ms F M Hurst be re-elected to serve an additional term of four years as Honorary Secretary, ending in 2022.
- (c) That Mrs J Spencer be re-elected to serve an additional term of four years as an Ordinary Member of Council, ending 2022.

## **6. Appointment of Auditors**

During 2018 the Board's Finance and Risk Committee had conducted a retendering exercise for the Trust's auditors. Messrs Lovewell Blake having been in office for 11 years, it was decided to appoint a new firm as a matter of good practice.

As required by s519 Companies Act 2006 Lovewell Blake had confirmed that in connection with their ceasing to hold office there were no circumstances which they considered should be brought to the attention of the members or creditors of the company.

A resolution that Ensors Chartered Accountants be appointed as auditors of the Trust was put to the vote, and on a show of hands, passed *nem con*.

The meeting was declared closed at 7pm.