

MINUTES OF THE 80th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH TRUST FOR ORNITHOLOGY

The 80th Annual General Meeting of the British Trust for Ornithology was held at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick on Saturday 7 December 2019 at 6:00pm. The Chair of the Board, Prof Jenny Gill, presided, and 127 members signed the attendance register.

1. BTO PRESIDENT

The Chair of Trustees, Prof Jenny Gill, welcomed the new BTO President Mr Frank Gardner, who was received with warm applause.

Mr Gardner spoke of his pleasure at being appointed as the BTO's President and of the importance of the BTO's volunteers and scientists at a time when the threats of climate change and habitat loss were more important to people, in particular young people, than ever before.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the 79th Annual General Meeting held on 8 December 2018 were approved as a correct record and the Chair signed the minute book.

4. TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Prof Gill introduced the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2019.

She noted with sadness the deaths of two of the 'giants' of ornithology and bird ringing, Clive Minton and John McMeeking, and also that of former BTO employee and pension fund trustee, Mark Rehfisch. She thanked Shane Wolsey, now retired, for his achievement in establishing BTO Northern Ireland and building its stakeholder network.

The Honorary Treasurer Mr Ian Packer introduced the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019.

His presentation highlighted the underlying strength of the BTO group businesses, which was somewhat masked by the pension fund entries in the statutory accounts format.

There were no questions from the floor on the Annual Report and Accounts, and they were received, *nem con*.

5. ELECTIONS

The Chair thanked the retiring trustees, Lt Col Roger Dickey and Mr David Jardine, for their service on the Board and its committees. Their wise counsel would be missed.

This year the Governance and Nominations Committee had conducted an open recruitment process for Board member nominations, informed by a skills matrix review which highlighted a need for marketing and communications expertise.

The Board proposed that Ms Sophie Guy and Mr Simon Marquis be elected to serve as Ordinary Members of the Board until 31 December 2023.

The proposal was agreed *nem con*.

The Board further proposed that Ordinary Member Dr Debby Reynolds be re-elected to serve an additional two year term of office ending 31 December 2021.

The proposal was agreed *nem con*.

6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

The Board proposed that Ensors Chartered Accountants be re-appointed as auditors to the Trust, and this was agreed *nem con*.

There being no other business the meeting was declared closed at 6:45pm.

..... Chair