

Christchurch Harbour Ornithological Group



**Minutes of the Sixty-First Annual General Meeting
of the Christchurch Harbour Ornithological Group
held on Wednesday 8th March 2017
at 7:30pm in St. Nicholas Church Hall, Bournemouth.**

Present: Chris Chapleo, Mark Andrews, Ed Brett, Roger Howell, Leo Pyke, Kevin Sayer, Ian Southworth, David Taylor, 26 members and 2 guests.

1. Apologies

Ali Germain and Jean Southworth.

2. Approval of Minutes of 2016 AGM

These had been posted on website since mid-February and were handed out on arrival. The minutes were accepted.

Proposed: Kevin Sayer
Seconded: Colin Raymond

3. Chairman's Report

The full report will appear in the Birds of Christchurch Harbour 2016, but the Chairman made the following summary:

- 2016 was a busy year for CHOG
- Highest-ever membership, 339, was achieved. This was thought to be due to a number of factors, including: increased publicity – thanks to Ali Germain; a full programme of indoor meetings – thanks to Kevin Sayer; and a full programme of outdoor meetings – thanks to Malcom Barrett
- So far in 2017, membership stood at 267
- Habitat restoration work on Priory Marsh – financial contribution and advice given by CHOG
- Soon-to-commence construction of viewing platform on Wick – financial contribution made by CHOG
- Thanks to Trevor Warrick and Dave Smith for their work on the Committee
- Thanks to those who oversaw the group's social media activities
- Thanks to Alan Crockard for website photo archiving
- Thanks to Dave Cooke for Trektellen.nl data entry
- Thanks to Leo Pyke for production of The Birds of Christchurch Harbour 2015
- Thanks to Roger Howell for BoCH 2015 distribution
- Thanks to all photographers who had submitted work

4. Treasurer's Report

The accounts had been posted on website since late February and were handed out on arrival.

The accounts were stated on a cash basis for the calendar year 2016 with a comparison to calendar year 2015.

The accounts were summarised as:

Income:	£3,059.15
Expenditure:	£4,583.60
Surplus/(Deficit):	£(1,524.46)

The Opening Balance for the accounting period was £7,279.52 and the Closing Balance £5,755.06.

The Treasurer explained the deficit was due to: a number of outstanding invoices; contribution to work on Priory Marsh; and purchasing of publicity materials. The income was, however, in excess of the recurring expenses and the surplus had been reduced to fund one-off projects.

Kevin Sayer raised a question as to the content of the £817 expense for Advertising and Sponsorship. The Treasurer explained this covered items such as: car sticker, posters, leaflets and BirdTrail sponsorship.

The accounts for 2016 were accepted.

Proposed: Kevin Sayer
Seconded: Dave Masser

5. Summary of the Ornithological Year

The full review will appear in The Birds of Christchurch Harbour 2016, but Ian Southworth presented the following summary:

- 210 species were recorded in 2016, which is the poorest ever, and was approximately six less than 2015.
- There was one new species recorded, Pallid Harrier, but is pending acceptance by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC).
- Pending species for the all-time harbour list are: the Elegant Tern from 2005 (BBRC); the Caspian Gull from 2015 (Dorset Records Panel) and the Pallid Harrier.
- The all-time harbour list currently stands at 324, but potentially rising to 327 in consideration of the above.
- A brief summary was then given of the more notable records from 2016.

6. Ringing Report

The full report will appear in The Birds of Christchurch Harbour 2016, but the Ringing Secretary presented following summary:

- 856 new birds of 32 species were ringed during 2016.
- The cumulative total since 1956 now stands at 59,998 birds of 122 species.
- Most ringing activity was focussed on reed beds and scrub adjacent to the HHC
- Of the birds ringed: Sedge and Reed Warblers were around 400, Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler were around 200, and Blackcap, Yellow Wagtail and Reed Bunting made the bulk of the remainder
- 20 Cetti's Warbler were also caught – four of which were re-traps
- Two ringing demonstrations were conducted – May and September – the latter producing a Grasshopper Warbler.
- The following species were mentioned in the summary as recoveries and controls, and include colour-ring sightings: Gannet, Spoonbill, Coot, Lapwing, Black-tailed Godwit, Black-headed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Cetti's Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Blackcap and Chiffchaff

7. Election of Officers

Nominations had been invited on the website since mid-February, with a further invitation at this point in the AGM. Single nominations had been received for each post and these were elected as follows.

Chairman: Chris Chapleo

Proposed: Alan Crockard
Seconded: Alan Hayden

Treasurer: Mark Andrews

Proposed: Nick Whitehouse
Seconded: Alan Crockard

Secretary: David Taylor

Proposed: Leo Pyke
Seconded: Colin Raymond

The rest of the Committee was elected en bloc.

Vice-Chairman:	Mark Andrews
Membership Secretary:	Ian Southworth
Recorder:	Olly Frampton
Report Editor:	Leo Pyke
Ringling Secretary:	Ed Brett
Website:	David Taylor
Indoor Meetings:	Kevin Sayer
Outdoor Meetings:	Nick Whitehouse
Publicity & Promotions:	Alison Germain
Stanpit Marsh Representative:	David Taylor
Hengistbury Head Representative:	Dave Smith
Report Distribution:	Roger Howell
Conservation:	Trevor Warrick

Proposed: Alan Hayden
Seconded: Greg Lambe

Welcome was given to two new Committee members, Olly Frampton and Nick Whitehouse.

The Chairman also stressed the group is always looking for new Committee members.

8. Any Other Business

None.

Meeting closed at 7:51pm

Approved by Chairman

Signed.....

Print Name: Chris Chapleo

Date.....