

Butterfly Conservation
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch – Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting
Sunday 17 November 2019
Littleton Memorial Hall

The AGM started at 12.05pm. Clive Wood, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Bob and Jean Annell, Juliet Bloss, Richard Lemon, Jenny Mallett, Steve Wheatley, Duncan Wright and Patrick and Cynthia Whittle.

2. Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting were unanimously confirmed as an accurate record.

Proposed: Ken Bailey. **Seconded:** Michael Gwilliam

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

4. Presentation of Accounts

Arthur Greenwood presented the accounts for 2018/19. Summary sheets were available at the meeting. The accounts had been independently audited and approved by BC Head Office. At the end of 2017/18 the accounting for the Hampshire Butterfly Reserves was transferred to Head Office. This has significantly simplified the Branch Accounting.

Total income was £37,560 which was £23,068 higher than 2017/2018. This was mainly due to a delay in receipt of Grant Income on our Reserves (which should have been received in 2017/18). Excluding Reserves, income was up by £2,311. The difference was mainly due to extra subscription income and from additional donations received.

Total Expenditure was £12,292 (excl. Restricted Funds). This is £4,854 more than 2017/2018. £554 of this is due to delayed charges of Reserve costs relating to 2017/2018. The other major cost is due to timing. The cost of the 2017 Annual Report was incurred in 2018/19 (normally this would have fallen in 2017/2018). Other costs were fairly consistent year on year

The Designated Fund balance for the June Bailey Education Fund was £10,772. The Branch is grateful to Ken Bailey for a further donation to this fund which supports the continuation of the Wild in Winchester project.

Ongoing income and expenditure levels are expected to be similar in 2019/20, though there is some pressure from Head Office for the Branch to reduce its bank balance.

Arthur Greenwood is standing down as Branch Treasurer. Simon Powell has kindly and enthusiastically agreed to take on the role. Arthur also thanked Bridget Grande for her efforts as Branch Treasurer in previous years.

It was proposed that the accounts be formally accepted, and this was carried unanimously.

Proposed: Chris Piper **Seconded:** Penny Jeffreys.

5. Reports for Records, Information and Reserves Subcommittees

a) Information Subcommittee

Abby Sullivan, Chair of the Information Subcommittee, presented the report.

Branch Membership (meaning active households) continues to grow, and now stands at 1714 households, which is up 2% from last year.

Other highlights:

- The field meetings run by Ashley Whitlock have gone very well this year, with support from many other volunteers. Abby thanked Ashley for his continued support.
- 11 external events were attended by the Branch, requiring 35 volunteer days. These included Blackmoor Apple Day, Boomtown Festival, a “Skippers and Admirals” cruise, HBIC Recorders Forum and the Beltain Festival at Butser Ancient Farm.
- Sales of Butterfly Walks remain buoyant with 1250 copies sold to date.
- Our social media presence is increasing but more can be done. This is an important area as it is a very important way of communicating with members and non-members alike. There is currently a vacancy for a volunteer Social Media Editor.
- The Branch also has a vacancy for a volunteer to co-ordinate the Branch Roundup e-newsletter. Abby asked for attendees to get in touch if they knew of anyone who might be interested in fulfilling this role.
- The Subcommittee has also introduced some features in the newsletter to try and engage a younger audience.
- The Subcommittee is currently updating and refreshing the website.
- The Branch is looking at ways of increasing the proportion of members who opt for electronic versions of the newsletter and Annual Butterfly Report. The aim is to significantly reduce printing and postage costs, reduce pressure on volunteers and be more environmentally sustainable. The preferred model is that members must opt in to receive the paper copy of the Annual Butterfly Report and will be encouraged to opt out of receiving the paper newsletter. All newsletters and reports are available to read online.
- The Branch has a lot of old or incorrect email addresses. Members who have changed their address recently or not received an e-newsletter in the past were encouraged to contact membership@butterfly-conservation.org

A question was raised as to whether the Branch was changing the default for new members to opt out of the paper newsletter. Clive confirmed the default would still be to opt in for the paper newsletter with members encouraged to opt out. The Annual Butterfly report is a high quality, specialist publication which is relatively more expensive to print and post. The default for that will be to opt out of the paper copy but this was subject to further consideration.

b) Reserves Subcommittee

Penny Jeffreys (Secretary of the Reserves Subcommittee) presented the report on behalf of Jenny Mallett (Chair).

Penny outlined the role of the Subcommittee and its membership, which is unchanged from last year.

The highlights for the year were:

- Two new Exmoor ponies have been loaned to the Branch. This will help support a varied grazing regime across our reserves. There has been a change to the grazing at Bentley Station Meadow; it was grazed by sheep last year but this year will be grazed by ponies. Having 18 sheep permanently on Hilltop has resolved the Hoary Ragwort problem on site. The bull and steer were tested positive for TB and had to be slaughtered.
- 1200 volunteer hours were contributed to reserve management last year - thank you to all those who helped. Penny asked people interested in volunteering for the Branch to contact Jayne Chapman who can advise on which roles were available.
- The winter work parties have been planned. A schedule is on the website and in the latest newsletter.
- A memorial to George Yorke was erected in Rosebay Corner on Magdalen Hill Down this year in tribute to the significant amount of work he did for the Branch.
- The Hants and Isle of Wight Amphibian and Reptile Group are regularly surveying 21 tins on Magdalen Hill Down. A Grass Snake has been recorded at Rosebay Corner.
- A number of White and Sword-leaved Helleborines have been recorded on Magdalen Hill Down, as well as Venus Looking Glass on the new arable plot on the reserve.
- 13500 butterflies were counted on Magdalen Hill Down this year, which is 12.5% up on 2018. On all areas of the reserve the totals have risen over the last 6 years.
- 13 species had their best year ever on the Allotments. Dingy Skipper, Grizzled Skipper, Chalkhill Blue, Small Blue and Small Copper are all doing well here.
- On the Extension, the Dingy Skipper is doing very well and had its best year ever. Large Skipper, Brimstone, Marbled White and Small Blue also had an excellent year.
- Common Blue are doing very well on North Down and Tree and Shrub East. Numbers have increased from 30 in 2016 to 251 in 2019 on North Down. Seven species did very well on the Original, particularly Dingy Skipper, making Magdalen Hill Down in the top ten sites for the County for this species.
- On Yew Hill total counts were up 16% on 2018 on the main reserve, with Green Hairstreak, Small Heath and Dingy Skipper all doing particularly well.
- At Bentley Station Meadow total counts were up almost 50% on 2018, making this the 4th best year out of the 27 years Butterfly Conservation have been monitoring the site. Large Skipper and Ringlet had exceptional years as did Marbled White and Silver Washed Fritillary.

Penny thanked transect walkers for entering their data early as this has helped other transect walkers know what they might find and is also invaluable for the person managing the reserve.

The Subcommittee would also like to thank walk leaders, lookers, work party volunteers and events helpers for their invaluable help this year. Penny particularly noted some very positive feedback from Natural England following a visit to Magdalen Hill Down in May 2019

and thanked Jayne Chapman (Senior Reserves Officer) for her hard work and many successes on the reserves.

c) Records Subcommittee

Jacky Adams, Chair of the Records Subcommittee, presented the report.

Jacky outlined the role of the Subcommittee and the sources of data received by the Branch. The Branch received over 100,000 records in 2018. There were 167 active transects covering 176 tetrads (approximately 15% of the county). Big Butterfly Counts took place in 683 tetrads (approximately 57% of the county). Jacky outlined how the data was used at national, regional, county and local levels.

The highlights for the year were:

- According to early indications from transect data, Painted Lady (+1,160%), Red Admiral (+134%), Pearl-bordered Fritillary (+111%), Dark Green Fritillary (+83%) and Peacock (+66%) had a particularly good year.
- Green-veined White (-61%), Common Blue (-57%), Adonis Blue (-55%), Comma (-34%) and Small Tortoiseshell (-23%) have had a bad year.
- The Cinnabar, Burnet Companion, Six-spot Burnet, Speckled Yellow and Brown Silver-line were the most recorded day-flying moths on transect.
- Jacky thanked those who contributed to the Butterfly Report.
- 2016 and 2017 moth data is available on the HantsMoths website.

Jacky thanked everyone who submits records on butterflies and moths and reminded attendees that moth data for the year needs to be submitted by the end of 2019. Outstanding butterfly records should be submitted by November 30th.

Bob Annell had requested members to please get in touch if they had images they are happy to share with the Branch for use in the 2019 Butterfly Report.

6. Chairman's Report

Clive Wood outlined plans to fund a new three year role for a Volunteer Development and Education Officer, which will support one of Butterfly Conservation's core aims, "To inspire people to understand and deliver species conservation". This will move the Branch forward by increasing both volunteer capacity and conservation activity as well as helping to recruit volunteers to more significant roles in the Branch. Clive outlined plans to fund the role, which will start in April 2020.

Clive gave an update on the Marsh Fritillary Re-introduction project. Some 27,300 larvae have now been released in total over two years and the first wild born Marsh Fritillary was seen on site on 21st May 2018.

Clive finished by sharing an example of conservation in practice at Corhampton Golf Course, where he and Jayne Chapman had provided management advice resulting in the creation of four butterfly scrapes which were seeded with wildflowers of local provenance. The Course

won a Syngenta Operation Pollinator Award 2019 for their conservation work and is a good example of how we can work with landowners to create or improve habitat for Lepidoptera.

Clive finished by thanking all committee members for their tremendous support over the year.

7. Election of Main Committee members

Clive Wood reported that:

- **Arthur Greenwood, Jenny Mallett and Mike Wall** are standing down from Main Committee and seek re-election (Mike Wall as an Associate Member) in accordance with Butterfly Conservation's rules.

It was agreed to vote on the above re-elections en-bloc.

Proposed: Andy Bolton. **Seconded:** Peter Leversha. Approved unanimously.

- **Simon Powell and Jacky Adams** seek election to Main Committee.

Proposed: Ashley Whitlock. **Seconded:** Ken Bailey. Approved unanimously.

Bob Annell stood down as Chair of Records Subcommittee but remains on Main Committee as County Butterfly Recorder.

8. Health and Safety Matters

None.

9. Any Other Business

None.

The meeting closed at 1.08pm.