

South Yare Wildlife Group

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

7.30pm, Wednesday 10 April 2020

Held by Zoom Conference due to COVID-19 restrictions

1. Apologies

None

17 people including all committee members attended via Zoom.

2. Minutes of 2019 AGM

Accepted as a true record by those present.

3. Chairman's Annual Report. Dan Hoare

Dan gave his report as detailed below. He highlighted the enhancement of website with regular blogs and newsletters with Mail Chimp, thanking Anna Gamble & Tom Waterfall for their input.

3.1 Membership

For the period January 2019 to January 2020 the total number of members was 82 + 2 children (free). Of those, 66 were paying by standing order which is a very encouraging proportion. This assists greatly with keeping the time spent on membership co-ordination to a manageable level.

Since January 2020 to date, a comparison with the same period last year shows that the number of standing orders was roughly similar, but renewals by cash and cheque payments are well down due to the lack of meetings/events where people would normally be prompted to renew. Given the COVID-19 circumstances I think it's only to be expected. A review of this impact on membership number will be reviewed in the autumn.

3.2 Events

All the talks in 2019 were very well attended by a mix of members and non-members. The diversity of event topics has drawn in many non-members and new members which is encouraging. Each event has had a subsequent write up posted as a blog on the SYWG website and shared by social media. Thank you to all the speakers, event organisers and those who have volunteered their time to make these occasions enjoyable and interesting.

Membership remains steady and our meetings help spread discussion, involvement and awareness of wildlife locally.

There were two open meetings with participation by a range of members who attended. Discussions focused on future ideas for events and a climate change debate. Both enabled members not on the committee to engage in discussion and contribute towards setting the direction and future activities of the group. The format seemed to work and

mutual opinion was that such meetings should be repeated.

Given the COVID-19 restrictions, all public events since late March have had to be cancelled. We are hoping to simply defer some of these until lockdown restrictions make it possible to hold such events safely. However, we have no idea when this may be, so please keep an eye out for the update emails with new dates. Outdoor events possibly offer a means of gathering with slightly less risk of spreading any infection. Either way, with COVID-19 likely to be a feature of life for quite a while, we shall need to seek alternative ways to be able to share, learn and enjoy our local wildlife together.

All future meetings are deferred to end of June when the committee will review on a rolling basis.

3.3 Wild Patch activities

SYWG provided funding for Wild Patch development to support the Chet B-Line project being led by Bergh Apton Conservation Trust. The SYWG funding was targeted at community groups with land within a loose boundary along the course of the River Chet. Three successful applications were made, with projects completed in Loddon and Chedgrave.

Young Explorers have been active at Rockland St Mary playing field. Through a partnership project with Rockland St Mary Parish Council an area of previously mown grass was seeded and has been left become a Wild Patch.

The “Don’t Mow” wooden game created by Poringland Men’s Shed has been used at different events to promote importance of insect pollinators and protection of their food sources.

3.4 Committee roles

As with all voluntary groups, the people involved tend to input the level of effort they are motivated to, can afford to with other life commitments, and often in proportion to what they get out of the experience. With that in mind, Kaarin Wall and Kevin Parker must be possibly the most driven, generous and fulfilled pair of SYWG members to date. I say this now as Kevin and Kaarin are stepping back from active committee roles. Since the inception of SYWG, both have motivated others and added their enthusiasm in spades. Thank you both for all your hard work and commitment to the group. We all hope to see you soon at the next event, or when passing your wonderful garden!

We all gave Kevin & Kaarin a round of applause, once we had unmuted our microphones !

4 Finance report - Calendar year 2019 - David Hamblin (Treasurer)

Another successful year for the group and our cash in hand and at bank had a total opening balance of 5219.11 on Jan 1st 2019 closing at 3779.35 Dec 31st 2019.

Total income for the year was £1861.70 made up of subscriptions £870, walks & talks £831.70 and donations of £120.00. Total expenditure was £3056.46, made up of walks & talks £705.55 print & post £23.36, website £275.50, insurance £138.32, donations £200.00 and Wildpatch 1300.74.

The events arranged throughout the year were generally well attended. Membership was slightly down from 2018 and stands at 77.

Retention of members giving a stable base is a useful indicator of popularity of the group's activities and members are encouraged to sign a Standing Order for their annual subscription which greatly helps us.

The introduction of internet banking in 2017 continues to be a success and I now mainly use the excellent Post Office services at Rockland St Mary, Loddon and Bergh Apton/Hellington to bank cash & cheques. I am grateful to Roland Kaye who has once again examined and signed-off this year's accounts.

The group remains in a good position to put on a wide range of events throughout the year, to utilise the website to promote its activities and to commission and carry out projects including maintenance and improvement of the SSSI at Ducan's Marsh, Claxton and the State of The Natural Environment Report.

There was significant expenditure this year in setting up the allotment at Rockland St Mary as a wildpatch site. This was a one off and otherwise income & expenditure remain in approximate balance. The accounts do not show the benefit of the Broads Authority Grant (Water, Mills & Marshes) which will come through in 2020 accounts.

The Group may have to consider only taking card payments in future and will continue to encourage all members to use internet bank to pay their memberships.

David expressed his gratitude for the support of all colleagues on the committee and then took any questions on the accounts.

A short discussion followed as David raised our response to cash handling in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Suggestions from Anna Gamble & Chris Popplewell included paying in advance or by card only. There are lots of issues to think through including food & drink provision and payment. Charles Wilde put forward the option of online ticketing. A member said that many still have not embraced digital finance. David said that the pandemic had accelerated the move to cashless contact free payment methods either by card or internet banking.

4 Election of the Committee May 2020 to April 2021

Kevin Parker & Kaarin Wall have stood down from the committee. All other existing members were happy to stand again.

Dan Hoare
Christine Popplewell
David Hamblin
Reg Land
Rodney Aldis
Anna Gamble
Tom Waterfall
Peter Armitage

Two new members Jake Zarins and Andy Jarrett were nominated to the committee.

A vote of members present to accept the named members to the committee for the 2020-2021 period was unanimously in favour.

Decision on committee roles will be set at the next committee meeting.

5 AOB

None.

Dan Hoare thanked everyone for attending. He noted that normally there would have been a speaker and that Jim Bradley would have been talking on Bird Watching & Patching in the area. Happily, Jim will present this to us in the future so it is a deferment not a loss.

Dan Hoare closed the meeting at 8.15pm

South Yare Wildlife Group

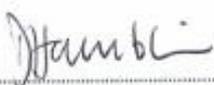
Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019

83 members 2019

2018 for comparison

Detail	Opening balances & income	Closing balances & expenses	Opening balances & income	Closing balances & expenses
Opening cash	210.96		205.95	
Opening bank	5008.15		5361.45	
Membership subscriptions 2019	870.00		1150.00	
Membership subscriptions 2019 paid before 31/12/18		40.00		270.00
External Funding (Broads Authority)	0.00		0.00	
Income from walks and talks	831.70		732.60	
Donation for equipment hire	0.00		1.00	
General Donations	120.00		151.50	
Expenditure re walks and talks		705.55		815.15
Workdays		412.99		0.00
Donations		200.00		441.00
Insurance		138.32		296.32
Wild Patch		1300.74		359.68
Website		275.50		281.80
Printing and postage		23.36		64.94
Cheques paid not cashed		105.50	105.50	
Membership subscriptions 2020 paid 2019	40.00		40.00	
Closing cash		100.00		210.96
Closing bank		3779.35		5008.15
	7080.81	7081.31	7748.00	7748.00

I have prepared these accounts from the financial records of South Yare Wildlife Group and confirm they represent an accurate summary of the income and expenditure in the year and of the assets and liabilities at 31st December 2019

Signed 
D. Hamblin (Treasurer)

Date 4/5/2020

Signed 
(Independent Examiner)

Date 4/5/2020