

Butterfly Conservation
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch – Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting
Sunday 18 November 2018
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 Arthur Greenwood, Bob & Jean Annell, Ken Bailey and Elaina Whittaker-Slark.

2. Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting were unanimously confirmed as an accurate record.

Proposed: Sue Lambert. **Seconded:** Penny Jeffreys

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

4. Presentation of Accounts

Clive Wood presented the accounts for 2017/18. 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 three Hampshire Butterfly Reserves and all associated assets and liabilities was transferred to Head Office. The Reserves Management Designated Fund was also transferred. The balance was increased to £50,000 before this took place.

Total income was £28,699 which was £25,953 lower than 2016/2017. This was mainly due to a delay in receipt of Grant Income on our Reserves (which was received in 2018/19). Excluding Reserves, income was down £4,682. The difference was mainly due to the extra income received on sales of the Butterfly Walks book in 2016/17 and lower income from donations in 2017/18.

Total Expenditure was £77,808 (excl. Restricted Funds). This is £14,182 more than 2016/2017. The cost of managing the reserves was £1,800 lower due mostly to the lower cost of conservation management work. There was a transfer of £27,662 to the Reserves Management Designated Fund. This was agreed with Head Office as part of the transfer of the Reserves accounting to Head Office. VAT costs were £8,265 lower due to timing differences on VAT receipts & payments. The cost of the 2017 Annual Report was also in the 2018/19 accounts (timing of receipt). Other costs were consistent year on year.

The Designated Fund balance for the June Bailey Education Fund was £5,772. 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 2018/19.

Bridget Grande is standing down as Branch Treasurer. Clive asked for anyone who was interested in filling this important role to contact him.

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

Proposed: Mary Parker. **Seconded:** Abby Sullivan.

5. Reports for Conservation, Information and Reserves Subcommittees

a) Records Subcommittee

Jacky Adams presented the report on behalf of Bob Annell (Chair).

Jacky outlined the role of the Subcommittee and the sources of data received by the Branch. All data flows into the Branch database, so members need only enter data once.

The highlights for the year were:

- According to early indications from transect data, it has been a good year for butterflies overall, with numbers up by 10%.
- Small White (+175%), Large White (+181%), Common Blue (+105%), Brown Argus (+186%) and Silver Spotted Skipper (+256%) had a particularly good year.
- Red Admiral (-73%), Small Tortoiseshell (-52%), Essex Skipper (-43%), Comma (-41%) and Peacock (-37%) have had a bad year.
- The Silver Y, Six-spot Burnet and Brown Silver-line were the most recorded day-flying moths on transect.
- Jacky thanked those who contributed to the Butterfly Report.
- 2016 moth data has now been published electronically 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 2018. Outstanding butterfly records should be submitted by November 30th.

Jacky reminded attendees that sightings submitted to the News section of the website are not recorded elsewhere, so please also report these via the usual channels.

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 Butterfly Report.

Stephen Miles asked why names were no longer being published against records in the Butterfly Report and whether Butterfly Conservation had taken a similar approach to GDPR as other organisations by asking members to give permission to share their personal data. Clive confirmed that Butterfly Conservation had followed an “opt-in” process earlier in the year. However, as butterfly records were received from non-members, and the number of records is so high (1.2 million), it's not possible for the small team who produce the report to reliably differentiate between those who have given their consent and those who have not in the tight timescales available.

b) Reserves Subcommittee

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

Penny outlined the role of the Subcommittee and some changes to its membership. Mike Berry, Steve Easter and Pete Flood had joined and Colin Matthews, Brian Fletcher, Dave

Pearson and Rob West had stood down. Penny thanked them for the contributions over the years.

The highlights for the year were:

- Grazing continues on Magdalen Hill Down, using stock from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Exmoor ponies on long-term loan to Butterfly Conservation. Cattle were not available to graze Bentley Station Meadow this year so we are using sheep instead.
- Jayne's Monday assisted support volunteer group had gone from strength to strength and been a great asset. Penny thanked those volunteers who were already helping, including those who joined a Conservation Day of Action in March to celebrate 50 years of Butterfly Conservation. More volunteers are needed to lead work parties and walks, or to check the livestock on the reserves.
- The arable plant project began on Magdalen Hill Down (North Down) this year.
- Hornet Robberfly (a rare and declining species) was found on Magdalen Hill Down this year, as was the Downland Robberfly.
- Striped Lychnis is doing well on the A31 scrapes.
- Since changing policy to welcoming dogs on a short lead-only on our reserves, the wildlife has benefitted from significantly less disturbance, resulting in an increase in birds (including Skylarks), deer and reptiles. The livestock appear noticeably less stressed.
- The Common Blue, Small White, Small Copper and Dingy Skipper had their best year ever on Magdalen Hill Down Original. Orange Tip and Brimstone had their second-best year. Small Tortoiseshell bucked the national trend by increasing in numbers on the Allotments (200% increase over the previous year). Brown Argus was also doing well on the Allotments and Chalkhill Blue had increased from 49 to 134 on transect in North Down. Adonis Blue was also recorded on the reserve this year.
- A new transect began on Yew Hill Hilltop part way through the year. The numbers of Grizzled and Dingy Skipper were looking good. Chalkhill Blue numbers were similar to 2017, which was good news after very low numbers in 2016.

Penny asked transect walkers to submit their data as soon as possible as it's very useful to see what's been recorded on transect in the previous weeks and to assist management decisions. Please contact one of the Reserves Subcommittee members if you require support with this.

The Subcommittee would like to thank transect walkers, walk leaders, lookers, work party volunteers, events helpers and Jayne Chapman (Senior Reserves Officer) for their hard work and many successes on the reserves this year.

c) Information Subcommittee

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

Branch Membership (meaning active households) continues to grow, and now stands at 1679 households. Our retention rate is 90%, which is higher than other branches. Our average length of membership is 10 years, which is also higher than the national average of 8.5 years.

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.
- 12 external events were attended by the Branch, requiring 38 volunteer days. The Branch also organised a reserves Open Day / Big Butterfly Count event on Magdalen Hill Down, a “Skippers and Admirals” cruise and a Conservation Day of Action to celebrate Butterfly Conservation’s 50th year.
- Sales of Butterfly Walks remain buoyant.
- 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. We are currently posting around 70 times a year, but this needs to increase to around 300. There is currently a vacancy for a volunteer Social Media Officer which, once filled, will help to achieve this aim.
- The Branch also has a vacancy for a volunteer Publicity Officer. Abby asked for attendees to get in touch if they knew of anyone who might be interested in fulfilling this role.
- The Subcommittee is also trialling some features in the newsletter to try and engage a younger audience. They will also review their Events programme this year.

6. Chairman's Report

Clive Wood briefly summarised many of the successes and achievements of the Branch over the year and thanked everyone who had contributed to different Branch activities. Clive shared some examples and statistics of some of the activities that take place, many of which support one of Butterfly Conservation’s core aims, “To inspire people to understand and deliver species conservation”.

The Branch is currently in transition from one which is perceived by some as “Reserves-centric” to one which will become more “conservation-centric”. This change will take place over time. The Branch will retain an important focus on the three Hampshire reserves but will be more ambitious when planning conservation efforts in the future.

The Branch is in a position of strength, having some cash reserves to help support future conservation work. Critically, it has also freed itself from the financial risks and uncertainties associated with managing nature reserves. However, more volunteers are required to achieve our goals. Membership of the Branch is growing but it’s becoming harder to fill key volunteer roles, such as Branch Treasurer. Jayne Chapman is supporting Surrey and Sussex branches in addition to Hampshire so requires more support locally. She is looking for volunteer Assistant Reserves Officers as a result. Species recorders (for moths and butterflies) are also required to support the analysis and use of data. Clive is also looking for an Events Organiser, a key role which enables a continued dialogue with the public in much bigger numbers than we would otherwise reach.

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

7. Election of Main Committee members

Clive Wood reported that:

- **Bob Annell, Penny Jeffreys and Clive Wood** are standing down from Main Committee and seek re-election in accordance with Butterfly Conservation's rules.
- **Bridget Grande** is standing down from Main Committee as Branch Treasurer and is not standing for re-election.
- **Bob Annell** is standing down as Chair of Records Sub-Committee but will remain on Main Committee as County Butterfly Recorder.

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

Proposed: Juliet Bloss. **Seconded:** Ashley Whitlock. Approved unanimously.

- **Elaina Whittaker-Slark and Mary Macmillan** sought election to Main Committee.

Proposed: Michael Gwilliam. **Seconded:** Robin Turner. Approved unanimously.

Clive thanked Juliet Bloss, former Newsletter editor for 25 years, and Bridget Grande, Branch Treasurer, for their support over the years and presented them with bouquets.

8. Health and Safety Matters

None.

9. Any Other Business

None.

The meeting closed at 1.00pm.