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RAFOS/Sec/17

All RAFOS Members 24 Nov 17

**MINUTES OF THE 52nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY HELD AT ROYAL AIR FORCE HIGH WYCOMBE ON 18 NOV 17**

Present: Gp Capt M J Routledge Chairman

 Gp Capt (Retd) K Cowieson FALO

 Lt Cdr (Retd) J K Springett Ringing Co-ordinator

 FS S M Drinkel Publicity Member

 Mr K W Earnshaw Journal Editor and Web Administrator

 Mrs S F Earnshaw Treasurer

 Mrs J M Knight Secretary

 and 24 members, listed at Annex A

Apologies had been received from Air Cdre (Retd) N Parton, Wg Cdr (Retd) W G Francis, Mr C P Wearn and the members listed at Annex B.

1. **Opening Remarks.** The Chairman welcomed all those present to RAF High Wycombe and thanked members for coming. He thanked the guest speaker, Dr Alex Banks from Natural England, for his fascinating and informative talk on Seabird Monitoring in the UK which preceded the AGM.

2. **Chairman’s Report.** The Chairman’s report is at Annex C.

3. **Minutes of the AGM 2016**. The Minutes of the AGM 2016 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Mr K W Earnshaw.

Seconded: FS S M Drinkel.

Carried unanimously.

4. **Matters Arising.** There were no matters arising.

5. **FALO’s Report.** The FALO’s report is at Annex D. As an adjunct to the FALO’s report Gp Capt (Retd) Robin Springett gave a brief on the Joint Services Ringing Expedition to Gibraltar, GIBEX 2017. The report is at Annex E.

6. **Treasurer’s Report.** The Treasurer’s report is at Annex F.

1. The expedition grants for 2018 listed in the Treasurer’s report were approved.

Proposed: Gp Capt (Retd) R Springett.

Seconded: Sqn Ldr (Retd) A M Smith.

Carried unanimously.

b. The Treasurer expressed her special thanks to the Chairman and Colin Wearn for all their work in the production and distribution of the newsletters.

c. The Chairman explained the payment for Public Liability and Employer’s Insurance. It was considered that, as we were not employers, the policy was not suited to our needs but the requirement was still being investigated for us by the RAF’s non-public funds experts. The Tour Operator’s insurance policy had been cancelled about 3 years ago following advice, saving about £900 per annum.

d. The plan for the next financial year was approved.

Proposed: FS S M Drinkel.

Seconded: Mr G W Candelin.

Carried unanimously.

7. **Committee Members Updates.** There were no other verbal reports from the Committee. The report from the Newsletter Editor and Social Media Member is at Annex G, the Publicity Member at Annex H and the Web Administrator at Annex I.

8. **Election of Officers.**

a. The Committee positions of Secretary and Newsletter Editor were due for re-election. Both incumbents were prepared to stand again but any counter proposals from the floor were invited. In the absence of any other applicants the proposal was to re-elect:

Mrs J M Knight as Secretary.

Proposed: Mrs S F Earnshaw.

Seconded: Mr J C Le Gassick

Carried unanimously.

Wg Cdr (Retd) W G Francis as Newsletter Editor.

Proposed: Mr J N Wells

Seconded: Mr E J Ashill.

Carried unanimously.

b. The post of Membership Secretary was also due for re-election and the incumbent, Air Cdre (Retd) Neville Parton, was not standing for re-appointment. The Chairman invited applicants from the floor but none were forthcoming. In the absence of any other applicants the Chairman announced that Colin and Julie-Ann Wearn had agreed to stand as joint Membership Secretaries and this was formally proposed to elect Mr & Mrs C P Wearn as Membership Secretaries.

Proposed: Mr K W Earnshaw.

Seconded: Lt Cdr (Retd) J K Springett.

Carried unanimously.

The Chairman thanked formally Air Cdre (Retd) Parton for his work as Membership Secretary and hoped that all the relevant paperwork would be handed over as soon as possible.

9. **Awards.**

a. Best written article – Mr J C Le Gassick for his article ‘Winter Sun 2017’.

1. Art and crafts - Mr J C Le Gassick for a calendar incorporating his paintings.

c. Best UK photograph – Sqn Ldr (Retd) R Yates for a picture of a Great Grey Shrike.

d. Best overseas photograph – Gp Capt M J Routledge for a picture of a Cape Bunting.

e. Best photograph by a novice – Mr B G Lyon for a picture of a Robin.

f. The Frank Walker Award was awarded to FS S M Drinkell. The citation is at Annex J.

10. **Venue and Format of Future AGMs.** The Chairman noted that about 25% of the membership were present and the audience comprised many of the regular faces at our AGMs who were happy with the venue and the facilities. He asked if we should move future AGMs around the country to attract some of the members unable to get to High Wycombe. He had checked the geographic distribution of our members and it was fairly evenly spread over the country. On the pros and cons, the facilities at RAF High Wycombe were free. In discussion, it was disclosed that the AOS uses an hotel, the RNBWS uses a cafe at a nature reserve and the OSME uses facilities at the BTO HQ in return for a donation. It was pointed out that we would not fit the number of people present into the space available at some of these venues. Members asked if we could use facilities at other RAF Stations or find suitable village halls. Stations were very reluctant to host such events unless one of the organisers was stationed there and it was difficult to make the arrangements from a distance. The Chairman agreed that we would survey the membership for their views on this subject

10. **AOB**

a. Capt Stephen Chapman MN, representing the RNBWS, thanked the Committee for being invited and asked what more the Societies might do together? He commended the example of the Gibraltar expedition. He also asked if there were birding contacts for Lt Philip Boak RN who was being assigned to RAF Cranwell from HMS Echo. He would liaise with the Secretary.

b. The Web Administrator reported a hacking attack on the website, as described in his report, and that he was working with the host organisation to recover the site from it. However, it prompted him to question if the website was doing what we want Members felt it was a valuable resource for archive and library material and for notices and publicity. The FALO suggested that the 3 presentations of the day could be posted. It was agreed that it would be beneficial if some other members of the Committee had administrative rights to the website, rather than just the Web Administrator.

c. John Le Gassick proposed a vote of thanks for the work of the Committee over the last year, seconded by John Wells. The applause was taken as a vote for the motion.

11. **Arrangements for the Next AGM.** It was agreed that the next AGM would be held at RAF High Wycombe on 17 Nov 18.

*Jan Knight*

J M Knight

Mrs

Secretary

Annexes:

A. Attendance List.

B. Apologies Received.

C. Chairman’s Report.

D. FALO’s Report.

E. GIBEX 2017 Joint Services Ringing Expedition Report.

F. Treasurer’s Report.

G. Newsletter Editor and Social Media Member’s Report.

H Publicity Member’s Report.

I. Web Administrator’s Report.

J. Frank Walker Award.