



## SOC Borders Branch AGM

Via Zoom

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022 7.30 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8975068982?pwd=ZFFKU25TTUYwQ0lLcldzNIRqM3JQUT09>

Meeting ID: 897 506 8982

Passcode: 678468

### In attendance

Thomas Brewis, Richard Jackson, Martin Moncrieff, Andrew Mossop, David Parkinson, Gavin Paterson, Alasdair Reid, Malcolm Ross, Michael Scott, Neil Stratton, Harry Urquhart

### Minutes

#### 1 Apologies

Mike Betts, James Douglas, Sarah Gant, Sheila Horsburgh, Kirsty Loudon, Vicky McLellan

#### 2 Adoption of Minutes of 2021 AGM

The minutes are adopted subject to correction of two typos

#### 3 Matters arising from Minutes

The matters arising from last year's Minutes are covered in the course of the following items.

#### 4 Chairman's Report

A copy of the text of the Chairman's Report was circulated with the Notice of the AGM and is attached hereto.

There are no questions regarding the Chairman's Report.



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## **5 Secretary/Council Representative's Report**

Given the fact that the Chairman's Report has covered branch activities, the Secretary/Council Representative's Report focuses on a summary of the proceedings of the Council over the last year.

A copy of the text of the Secretary/Council Representative's Report was circulated with the Notice of the AGM and is attached hereto.

There are no questions regarding the Secretary/Council Representative's Report.

The Secretary also reports that as of today the branch has 144 subscriptions and 177 individual members.

## **6 Treasurer's Report**

A copy of the text of the Treasurer's Report was circulated with the Notice of the AGM and is attached hereto.

There are no questions regarding the Treasurer's Report.

## **7 Borders Bird Report: Future Format and Funding**

The 2021 Border's Bird Report is currently being worked on with the intention of producing it as both a printed report and as a pdf very much along the lines of last year's report, with the option of making minor changes as work proceeds.

## **8 Arrangements for future meetings and outings**

Headquarters has circulated a paper with proposals for indoor meetings next year.

The idea is to organize a single monthly Zoom talk for the whole of Scotland on the same day each month, with the option of break-out sessions where clusters of regions could meet to discuss matters of local interest.

Headquarters is proposing that Scottish Borders be paired with Lothian.

A discussion ensues regarding the pros and cons of a pairing with Lothian—the region with whom we undertake the bulk of our joint projects but one that is much larger than ourselves and where there is a risk of our voice being



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drowned out—or Dumfries and Galloway, with whom we have joined up for branch meetings over the last year.

It is decided to accept HQ's suggestion of a pairing with Lothian and to see how this pans out in practice.

It would also be possible to organize ad hoc, Borders-only Zoom meetings using the free version of Zoom if we felt we were being overwhelmed, since the chat element during our in-person meetings usually only amounted to around 15 minutes and the free version of Zoom would allow us to talk for 40 minutes.

The outdoor meetings for this spring/summer have already been planned.

## **9 Election of Office Bearers**

### ***Chairman***

Martin Moncrieff steps down as Chairman after three years and the Secretary calls for candidates to succeed him.

One candidate, Gavin Paterson, puts his name forward.

Martin Moncrieff proposes Gavin Paterson for the office of Chairman and he is seconded by Harry Urquhart.

Gavin Paterson is elected unanimously.

### ***Vice-Chairman***

To provide continuity following Martin Moncrieff's retirement, it has been decided to create the post of Vice-Chairman.

One candidate, Thomas Brewis, puts his name forward.

Richard Jackson proposes Thomas Brewis for the office of Vice-Chairman and he is seconded by Martin Moncrieff.

Thomas Brewis is elected unanimously.

### ***Secretary***

Neil Stratton, the current Secretary, indicates his willingness to continue in post.

Martin Moncrieff proposes Neil Stratton for the office of Secretary and he is seconded by Gavin Paterson.



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Neil Stratton is elected unanimously.

### ***Treasurer***

Richard Jackson, the current Treasurer, indicates his willingness to continue in post.

Martin Moncrieff proposes Richard Jackson for the office of Treasurer and he is seconded by Gavin Paterson.

Richard Jackson is elected unanimously.

### ***SOC Council Representative***

Neil Stratton, the current Council Representative, indicates his willingness to continue in post.

Martin Moncrieff proposes Neil Stratton for the office of Council Representative and he is seconded by Thomas Brewis.

Neil Stratton is elected unanimously.

### ***Engagement Officer***

It has been decided to enhance the effectiveness of the committee by electing an Engagement Officer with responsibility for promoting local surveys and reaching out to members.

One candidate, Alasdair Reid, puts his name forward.

Martin Moncrieff proposes Alasdair Reid for the office of Engagement Officer and he is seconded by Richard Jackson.

Alasdair Reid is elected unanimously.

The retiring Chairman, Martin Moncrieff, who is also the joint County Bird Recorder agrees to remain on the Committee to ensure continuity and so that one of the County Recorders is on the committee.



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Three members of the Committee—Harry Urquhart, the representative of the Western Area, David Parkinson, Chairman of the Discussion Group and joint County Bird Recorder, and Malcolm Ross, the Bird Report Distributor—indicate their intention to step down from the Committee, in Malcolm's case after 40 years, and in David's a stint of 25 years as Treasurer as well as being a past Chairman.

The incoming Chairman thanks the retiring Chairman and the three retiring committee members for their many years of service.

Malcolm Ross agrees to continue to act as Distributor of the Bird Report.

The position of Bird Recorder is a central SOC appointment and is not discussed at the meeting.

It is decided to consider the Chairmanship of the Discussion Group at the first meeting of the new Committee, which is set for 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

There being no further business, the Chairman closes the meeting at 9.00 p.m.