



Lothian SOC
Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2024

Date: 7.30pm, Tuesday 9 April 2024

Venue: The Cornerstone Centre, St John's Church, Princes St, Edinburgh EH2 4BJ

Committee members present (6):

Richard Leslie (Chair); Stephen Hunter (Treasurer); David Parmee (Secretary); Gill Parmee; Alec Sibbald; Mike Thornton.

Members present (26):

Ali Black; Michael Black; Sam Donaldson; Val Donaldson; Maggie Gilvray; Elizabeth Glass; Susan Goode; Marjorie-Anne Harper; Nigel Harvey; Philip Hunsley; Peter Hutchison; Hazel Kennedy; Joanna Larkin; Alan Macdonald; Annette Mackie; Hilary Maxfield; Helen McKellar; Ann Moorhead; Helen Petrie; David Raffle; Colin Russell; Andrew Sandeman; Anne Sinclair; Winifred Thomson; Molly Woolgar; Simon Zisman.

Guests present (1):

Sine Greatorex

Richard Leslie opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed everybody.

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Approval of minutes of the Lothian SOC AGM held on 12 April 2022

Copies of the minutes of the 2023 AGM had been posted to the Branch's page on the SOC website some months prior to the meeting. In response to a query from Jo Larkin, David Parmee explained that documents had not been attached to the notice of the meeting but links to the website had been included. The minutes were approved on the proposal of Richard Leslie, seconded by Gill Parmee.

3. Branch Chair's report

Richard Leslie's annual report had been posted to the Branch's page on the SOC website prior to the meeting. Richard highlighted his thanks to all committee members, other branch members and Waterston House staff who had supported the branch during the year in providing its various branch meetings, outings, discussion group meetings and bulletins.

4. Branch Treasurer's report

Copies of the Branch accounts for the year to 31 March 2024 had been posted to the Branch's page on the SOC website shortly before the meeting and printed copies were available at the meeting. Stephen Hunter highlighted the following points:

- the reduction in income compared to previous years due to the timing of the publication of the latest Lothian Bird Report;
- the healthy balance of funds;
- the charges for the Cornerstone Centre not being fully covered by receipts at meetings, but subsidy from other income is considered appropriate to allow the branch to use such a good central venue;

- the purchase of a new branch laptop to replace the very outdated and increasingly unreliable previous hardware and software.

In response to a query from the floor about raising the donation for meetings from its current level of £3, Richard Leslie said that while the branch's funds remain healthy he thought it appropriate to fund the costs of the venue from reserves but there is likely to be an increase at some point in the future.

The accounts were adopted on the proposal of Andrew Sandeman, seconded by Jo Larkin.

Summary of Lothian Branch accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024:

		£
Income	Lothian Bird Report sales income	187.75
	Collections at branch meetings	914.79
	Unidentified deposit	31.00
	Total income	£1,133.54
Expenditure	Lothian Bird Report packing supplies and postage	62.98
	St John's Church Cornerstone Centre hire	1,485.00
	Branch meeting expenses	191.57
	Replacement of branch laptop and software	478.99
	Gift to retiring committee member	52.99
	Loss for Christmas lunches	2.00
	Total expenditure	£2,273.53
Income deficit		£1,139.99
Account balance as at 31 March 2023		£3,549.10
Account balance as at 31 March 2024		£2,409.11

5. Election of branch officers and committee members

Stephen Hunter was due to retire at the AGM but offered himself for re-election as Branch Treasurer. Stephen's re-election was proposed by Hilary Maxfield and seconded by Molly Woolgar.

David Parmee was due to retire at the AGM but offered himself for re-election as Branch Secretary for one year only as he intends standing down at the AGM in 2025. David's re-election was proposed by Anne Sinclair and seconded by Alec Sibbald.

Mike Thornton was due to retire at the AGM but offered himself for re-election. Mike's re-election was proposed by Stephen Hunter and seconded by Simon Zisman.

Alec Sibbald was co-opted to the committee during the year and offered himself for election. Alec's election was proposed by Philip Hunsley and seconded by David Parmee.

Richard Leslie commented that Gill Parmee would also be standing down at the AGM in 2025.

6. Election of new committee members

There were no nominations of new committee members.

7. AOCB

Nothing was raised.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.45pm.