

SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Thursday April 9th, 2026

1	<p>Apologies: Roger Smith, Ray Hall, Janet Boyd, Penelope Lloyd, Ruth Hitchcox, Phil Jemmett, John and Shena Maskell, Moira Brown, Paul Robards, Celia Beresford, Chris Skilton, Tony Letchford and Alan Dickson</p> <p>Members Present: 64 members present</p>
2	<p>Welcome from the President: Dr John Newnham John introduce himself, explained his role and welcomed all present</p>
3	<p>Approval of minutes of last AGM: Minutes of the AGM held on 10th April 2025 were approved by a show of hands. Proposed by Audrey Wende and seconded by Bernie Forbes</p>
4	<p>Chairman's Report: The full report is available on the website. The written report sets out all the measurable achievements over the past 12 months, but here just a few highlights were picked out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For members, 24 walks were delivered by volunteers, some to new locations, others to popular longstanding places with 490 attendees. Another overnight minibus trip was highly successful. 7 indoor meetings have been held spanning a range of birding and conservation topics.• For external groups, 11 walks and 2 talks raised £375• Two fabulous newsletters have been produced.• Our membership increased to over 400 members• Important conservation work this year included £1000 grant to RSPB for yellow buoys.• A formal submission was made to Adur Council as part of Local Plan process• Monitoring and recording of wild birds through WEBS count at Adur SSSI, and other regular surveys at Cissbury Fields, Mile Oak Farm area etc.• New Swift Group set up, focus primarily in Worthing area• 3 Interpretation panels were designed for New Monks Park• Social media has expanded to over 2300 on Facebook• Website has been redesigned by in house experts. Thanks were extended to Jo and Andy Whiting for this work• All these achievements were made possible by members of Council who contributed over 2000 hours to the running of SDOS, together with other members who volunteer to lead walks, give talks and drive the minibus. <p>Tony said it had been his huge privilege to Chair SDOS for 5 years. John thanked Tony for his report. There were no questions raised.</p>
5	<p>Annual Accounts: TH reported on the accounts for the year, noting significant features of income and expenditure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key costs include ICT, Hire of the Hall, Speakers, Insurance and Newsletters• Postage is also a significant cost. Hand delivery and availability to collect at meetings contribute to savings in this area.• Due to increase in membership our subscription income is £4198 this year to date.• The raffle receipts add to our income.• Costs currently are about £3000 per annum which is covered by membership income.• Currently we have 409 members. The subscription rate will remain at its current level, as set in 2006.• In addition to the buoys and panels already referenced by Tony we financed an owl box at Applesham Farm <p>Thanks were extended to John Bould for his work as Accounts Examiner for this year. No questions were raised and Treasurer's report was accepted by a show of hands. Proposed by Clive Hope and seconded by David Parks</p>

6	Election of new Chairperson Jenny Holter was elected to the role of Chair by a show of hands. There were no objections. Proposed by SDOS Council and seconded by Bernie Forbes
7	Election of Offices and Council Members: All current council members were willing to stand again. These were duly elected on a show of hands, with no objections. Tim Holter. Treasurer Sue Miles. Secretary and Membership Secretary Richard Allan. Council member without portfolio* Tony Letchford. Outdoor Meetings Co-ordinator Roger Smith Newsletter Editor Jo Whiting. IT Co-ordinator The election of all members was proposed by Mike Dixon and seconded by John Pointing
8	Election of new Council Member Jackie Burdon was elected to Council as a new member without portfolio by a show of hands. Proposed by Jenny Holter, seconded by Steve Lawless
9	Adoption of New Rules Jenny outlined the changes, which were minor in nature, and these were adopted unanimously.
10	Election of Examiner Barry Ward was elected as the new Accounts Examiner. Proposed by Tim Holter and seconded by Tony Benton
11	AOB None
12	John thanked all Council members, outings leaders and volunteers and closed the meeting at 8.03PM

After the meeting closed, Jenny Holter gave a vote of thanks and a gift to Tony Benton as he stepped from his role of Chair.

*Jenny also advised members that Richard Allan had been appointed by Council to the new role of Vice Chair. As this was a Council decision, members were not required to vote on this appointment.