

## ISLES OF SCILLY BAT GROUP

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at the Garden Pavilion, Church Road, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly at 12.00**

**Present:** Marian Berkeley; Anne Gurr; Mike Gurr; Carol Williams; Johann Hicks; Jonathan Smith; John Headon; Anthea Roberts; Christine Blackwell (9 members) plus; Philip Briggs (BCT) attended as an observer. Apologies from Tony Berkeley, Carole Cilia and Rosemary Parslow.  
(Ralph Banfield attended for the talk but not the AGM)

#### **01/18     Chairman's Introduction**

Marian welcomed members. She reflected on the wider reach of the Bat Group members via influential events such as a bat evening at the House of Lords and support for the Bats and Churches project. She thanked her fellow officers, Anne and Mike for all their work in preparing for this meeting and in particular shared the deep gratitude of the group for all Mike's hard work as secretary of the group over the last 12 years, taking it from its formation through all the subsequent years of raising the profile and consideration of bats in the islands so successfully. This meeting sees Mike stepping down from this role.

#### **02/18     Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 20 July 2016.**

Pre-circulated: taken as read; no matters arising not on agenda.

#### **03/18     Secretary's Report for July 2016 - June 2017 (with updates)**

Mike's report was circulated prior to the meeting (and is included in Annex 1 for completeness). However, in the short time between the compilation of that report and the AGM there were three matters on which Mike provided an update:

- **Maypole Farm, St Mary's roost counts.** Having done the regular roost counts at Maypole Farm, these conformed to the pattern seen in recent years:

21<sup>st</sup> April -67  
May – 44  
June – 3

Leaving a mystery of where the bats go in mid-summer. The report circulated concluded that no new roosts have been discovered. However, there is an exciting update. A new roost has been found just 100 yards from Maypole Farm and in two counts in June this had 40-60 bats present. The mystery has been solved! Now that this roost has been located, Mike and Anne have plans in place to gain access to the garden of the property to allow a better view of the roost access points and therefore to increase the accuracy of the counts.

- **Tresco roost counts and transects** A further update to the circulated secretary's report on the lack of anyone to do any bat counts on Tresco. Since reporting that there is more good news. Marian made contact with Diana Mompoloki (who is the new Tresco Estate Director for Large Projects) and learned that she would like to be involved with bat monitoring on Tresco. Subsequently, Mike and Anne met with her and Diana has agreed to not only carry out the roost counts but also to do the walked transect on Tresco. Diana is a skilled bat worker and has already carried out the first count at the Abbey counting a total of 206 bats.
- **Membership** At the meeting good news was also reported regarding the group's membership which has increased from 19 to 24

#### **04/18 Treasurer's Report.**

Anne presented the audited accounts for 2017. She tabled copies of the income and expenditure and balance sheet plus an interim summary of Bat Group finances up to the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The interim summary is shown below. The more detailed accounts are included in Annex 2.

The subscription will remain the same at £5.

#### **Interim summary of Bat Group Finances 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

##### **Income**

Subscriptions	£ 100.00
Bat Walks	£ 85.00

##### **Expenditure**

Batteries	£ 17.90
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##### **Brought forward from 2017**

£523.53

**Current balance**                      **£690.63**

#### **05/18 Committee renewal and changes**

At the meeting, having left the opportunity for anyone else to put themselves forward as Chair, it was agreed that Marian and Anne would remain in post as Chair and Treasurer. We are very grateful to them for continuing their sterling work in these roles. With Mike stepping down as secretary Carol Williams had been nominated to take over this role and this was agreed and accepted during the AGM.

### **06/18 Any Other Business**

- Discussions resumed regarding the talk given to the group prior to the meeting by Philip Briggs on the subject of monitoring bats. The possibility of carrying out a Nathusius pipistrelle survey on the island was discussed, including the use of some bat group funds towards people experienced in this coming over to the islands to help. A summary of the talk and possibilities for the bat group will follow in due course.
- The use of bat boxes was discussed. The monitoring of bat boxes currently in place and their effectiveness.
- Jonathan made the suggestion that the bat group should look at links to the AONB and Local Nature Partnership work. This will be considered in due course.

The meeting closed at 12.30.

### **Secretary's Report for July 2017 - June 2018**

- I shall first give a brief account of the Group's activities since June 2016, when we had our last General Meeting
- Our main meeting in 2017 was devoted mainly to a talk entitled 'Bats in Trees' by Carol Williams, Director of Conservation at the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT). A synopsis of her talk is as follows:
- *Trees are important for all British bat species whether this is for foraging, helping them move through landscapes, or for roosting. This talk will look at the ways that the lives of our bats are intertwined with trees. But what features of trees make them suitable for use as bats' roosts? How do we know if bats are roosting in a tree? This talk will help us to identify these features, with a particular focus on bats in Scilly. You may never be able to see a tree again without assessing its batty features.*
- We know, mainly from our radio tracking in 2012, that bats in Scilly mainly roost in either domestic buildings or trees. Roosts in trees are more difficult to locate and Carol's talk gave us many clues on how to go about identifying potential tree roosts. There was a lively discussion and we all were inspired to do more searching.

The chairman thanked Carol for her interesting and thought-provoking presentation and for her continuing support for our Group.

- Five regular bat walks have been conducted on St Mary's during this period, July 2017 – June 2018. We are especially grateful to Christine Blackwell for helping us lead the regular bat walks. Our next is tonight!
- We have done six regular Roost Counts at Maypole Farm, St Mary's. Three of these were in connexion with the NBMP. The first count this year on 21<sup>st</sup> April was 67 – a record for this month of the year (20 in 2017). Last July's two Field surveys on St Mary's found passes of 33 and 52, well up on 2017. No 'new' roosts have been discovered since the last AGM. Unfortunately nobody is now doing any bat counts on Tresco and this seems unlikely to change.
- Mike & Anne, although retaining their NE licences, are not now doing any bat survey work in respect of planning applications. We completed 19 surveys from July 2017 until 'retiring' on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017. This means that, *pro tem*, applications requiring a bat survey will need to seek the costly services of a professional

ecological consultant, which may tend to spoil the good relationship we have built up with residents in regard to bats. However, the Wildlife Trust is now training two staff to obtain NE licences, which should happen soon, and this will be a great advance. We are most grateful to the Trust for this initiative and especially to Darren Hart, for whom we provided a bat 'teach-in' in late April and Nikki Banfield, who handles our publicity through the website.

- I am now retiring after 11 years as secretary of the Group. Having decided this, and having no offers to take over, I consulted with the Cornwall Bat Group about the possibility of a merger to form the 'Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Bat Group' but their committee decided against this proposal. I am, grateful to Carol for her suggestion that she be nominated as our new Secretary. She will deal with administrative matters, mainly communications with members and the team on the Isles will continue their bat research work and conducting bat walks, thus ensuring that bat conservation work here is not interrupted.
- Finally, we are grateful to BCT for their continued help and advice.

## Annex 2

## BAT GROUP ACCOUNTS 2017

Income and expenditure 2017

## Income

Subscriptions	£115.00
Donations	£20.00
Bat Walks	£200.00
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	£335.00

## Expenditure

Secretary & Treasurer's expenses	£13.44
Room Hire	£60.00
Bat Conservation Trust	£75.00
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	£148.44

Income over expenditure	£186.56
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Balance sheet at 1st January 2018

Bank balance at 1st January 2017	£336.97
Plus income over expenditure	£186.56
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	£523.53

Bank balance at 31st December 2017	£523.53
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Checked + Agreed

*[Signature]*

D.A. Coates

16th January 2018