

# **BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION DORSET BRANCH**

## **Minutes of the Annual Members Meeting Held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at the Dorford Centre, Dorchester**

### **1. Welcome by the Chairman and Apologies**

Nigel Spring, Chairman, said that it was nice to see everyone on a lovely sunny afternoon and welcomed in particular our speaker Wren Franklin. Some 50 members and friends were present. Apologies had been received from Lyn Pullen, Andy Martin, Adrian Neil, and Hazel Willmott.

### **2. Chairman's Report**

Nigel started by saying that it had been a good season on the whole, though with periods of extremely hot and dry weather. Some species are down, but it has been a good year for migrants, some unusual, although some (eg the Glanville Fritillary) may be due to releases.

There have been some changes on the Branch Committee. Robin George has taken on the role of Records Officer, following the retirement of Bill Shreeves in February 2021. This has been a major task, particularly as we now have 85 transects to manage and process. We were very pleased to welcome Andy Martin to the Committee as Membership Officer in Robin's place, he has taken on the role with great energy and determination. Nigel thanked all the committee members for their hard work. He also thanked Colin Burningham and Christine Bonner, who took the Display and Sales stall to venues over the summer, and Arthur Bryant who produces the Events List. Finally he thanked those who had set up and helped with the meeting today, including Steve Brown, Georgie Laing, Richard Norman, and Myra Sealey, Barbara Droop, Pauline Pires, Jane Newdick and Joan Durran who managed the refreshments.

Conservation is another vital area of our work, but Nigel said that our work parties are ageing. He proposed running some more conservation training and species id sessions to try to recruit some younger volunteers.

Finally Nigel reported that membership stands at 1021.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

Georgie Laing presented her financial report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. She explained that, under the new accounting method, this is the third time that Head Office has done the bookkeeping. It has taken a while to resolve the errors and inconsistencies in the data provided, and this is an ongoing problem. Annual expenditure exceeds income by about £10,000 each year, so our Designated Reserves set aside for conservation will only last a further 4 years, and the branch no longer receives the full amount of Environmental Stewardship money from Head Office for our reserves, as these are spread over all BC reserves (many of which are not eligible in their own right).

We have received several donations, including from Lotek (£470), EuCAN (£250), plus a gift in kind from Dorset Conservation Volunteers to the value of £117. We now have 1021 branch members, for which we received £5,811 from Head Office (£6 per member). We have not received any Gift Aid owed from Head Office since 2020.

As the accounts are approved at a national level, we no longer have to adopt the Branch Accounts at our Annual Meeting.

#### **4. Election of Officers and Committee Members**

##### **Officers**

From 2021: **Chair**, Nigel Spring, **Treasurer**, Georgie Laing, **Records Officer**, Robin George

From 2022: **Secretary**: Adrian Neil

##### **Members**

From 2021: Richard Norman

From 2022: John East, Andy Martin (Membership Officer), Jane Smith (Newsletter Editor)

All were elected unanimously.

#### **8 Any Other Business.**

None

JES  
16.10.22