

Fungus Survey of Oxfordshire

Annual General Meeting Sunday 22 November at 3pm Held via conference call

Attendees:

Alison Banham (AB) Chair, Max Peterson (MP) Treasurer, Caroline Jackson-Houlston (CJH), Molly Dewey (MD), John Killick (JK), Wendy MacEachrane (WM), Judy Webb (JW) and Julia Huggins (JH) Secretary.

Apologies:

Richard Fortey, President

1 and 2. AGM Minutes 2019 and Matters Arising

CJH pointed out that the minutes did not contain reference to the Chair's comments last year about using the Fritillary (publication of the Ashmolean Natural History Society) as a route for publishing articles from FSO members.

Apart from this the minutes were accepted as presented.

CJH also pointed out that handover of the Kibby books (Vol 1 and 2) to herself had yet to be completed. MP confirmed these have been purchased and is waiting on a convenient time to hand them on to CJH.

3. President's report

In the absence of the President there was no report to present.

4. Treasurer's report

MP explained there were two typo errors in the accounts before the committee, namely 'Petty Cash 2018' should read 2019 and 'Subscriptions 2019' should read 2020. MP expressed the committee's thanks to Rod MacEachrane for auditing the accounts. The accounts were accepted.

There was only one subscription received this year as this had been received last year in advance, with all other subscriptions waived due to the Covid pandemic restrictions, and it was agreed that this sum should be carried forward to the subscriptions for 2021. MP reported that the account was showing a healthy balance due to the residual from the bequest from the T. Ingold estate and encouraged all committee members to reclaim any expenses incurred on behalf of the FSO. Main expenditure at present remains the yearly costs incurred for hosting the website. MP pointed out that there are sufficient funds to pay for or contribute towards attendance at BMS events in the coming year.

MP explained that several new members had enquired about the possibility of paying their subscriptions via an on-line account and he was now actively looking into this option. The proposal was discussed and it was agreed that this should be pursued but that the society should also maintain the status quo of paying in cash at meetings if preferred. MP explained that our existing mandate with Barclays Bank will need to be updated and would require both signatories on the original account to be present, namely himself and Wendy MacEachrane.

AB suggested that as part of the new process an email could be issued each year as a reminder that subscriptions are due. It was agreed that this would be appropriate for the secretary.

Action: MP to organise with Barclays and Wendy MacEachrane

5. Newsletter input

CJH stated that she felt there was sufficient data from surveys undertaken this year to still complete a Newsletter despite our curtailed programme. It was agreed that a full programme for 2021 should still be drafted despite Covid-19 even if the detail was kept out of the newsletter publication. CJH is aiming to have a draft of the Newsletter completed by the end of December and will be issued for comments early in the New Year. She suggested that Committee members might wish to provide a short paragraph (with photograph ideally) of their Fungi of the Year and requested contributions from everyone. It was also suggested that if a Presidential Address were to be difficult this year then the committee should consider pulling together a Committee Address instead.

Action: Committee members to consider articles and content for Committee Address

6. Website photograph

JH explained that the President felt concerned that the photograph suggested for the website homepage (Harcourt Arboretum meet) did not represent our 'normal' activity and she asked if anyone had a suitable photograph showing survey activity in progress. She asked for any possible photos to be forwarded to her.

Action: Committee members to consider suitable photographs

7. Publicity Leaflet

CJH had provided a draft production to the committee and this was endorsed as a colourful and attractive 'flyer'. Publication and issue was discussed and several routes for distribution were considered including local Natural History Society groups, Field Clubs, other local fungi groups and Harcourt Arboretum.

Action: CJH to be advised of appropriate outlets

8. Appointment of Committee

No changes were proposed so the Committee membership remains unchanged.

9. AOB

JW requested clarity about the role of the recorder and it was confirmed that each survey will have one recorder and that they are also responsible for data entry onto FRDBI. This may be complicated where a survey is split with two recorders as experienced this year with Covid-19 and CJH will liaise with JW over her current concern. CJH expressed thanks again to Kate Colles and Wendy MacEachrane for their FRDBI assistance last year and to JH for her offer of help this year. CJH added that she has been involved in discussions with Thames Valley Fungus Group (TVFG) about recording and reporting of joint meetings in Oxfordshire. She has agreed that if FSO provide the recorder then the data will be input by us but otherwise TVFG would take responsibility although the FRDBI data would not show FSO 'ownership'. This was accepted.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 22 January 2021 at 10.30 which will be scheduled as another conference call. Main agenda item will be drafting of a survey programme for 2021.

11. Date of next AGM

Sunday 21 November 2021 at 14.00. This will hopefully follow a survey of North Leigh Common and will be hosted by Max Peterson if Covid restrictions allow.

Julia Huggins
FSO Secretary