



BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF NATURE CONSERVATIONISTS

Minutes of Annual General Meeting The Bustard Inn Near Shrewton, Wiltshire Saturday 13th October 2007, 12:00 noon

The meeting was called to order. Diana Pound, chairing the meeting in Pippa Langford's absence, welcomed everyone and read apologies.

Members present: Diana Pound (Vice-Chair), Peter Massini (Secretary), Debbie Bartlett, Mike Cummings, Brian Day, Phil Dickin, Graeme Duckworth, Mathew Frith, Mike Fry, Lalage Grundy, Fran Hitchinson, Andrew Jones, Gideon King, Rick Minter, Alison Parfitt, Charles Rugeroni, Ralph Underhill, June Wakefield.

Apologies: Pippa Langford (Chair), Derek Bensley (Treasurer), Kate Ashbrook, Helen Meech.

Minutes of AGM 2006

These were unavailable, apparently lost, hence it was unable to adopt them.

Chair's Report

Diana reported on the year's activities, namely

- the three published issues of *Ecos: Accepting the Wild?, Loving Nature? & Nature's Id – Making Our Connection*;
- the revamping of BANC's web site;
- the rejection by the Esmee Fairburn Foundation of BANC's application for funding for the proposed *Challenging Conservation* project;
- the work of Karen Cropper, Membership Secretary, to maintain and enhance the membership database and to collect roughly £2,000 in royalty payments for BANC, for which Diana sincerely thanked Karen; and
- Council's efforts to generate ideas for increasing BANC's membership & income.

Treasurer's Report

Copies of the audited accounts had been made available, ahead of the meeting, to attendees via e-mail and to other members via the web site. No members had any specific questions on the accounts.

In Derek Bensley's absence, Graeme Duckworth summed up BANC's financial situation, which had not changed greatly, in that membership subscription income was sufficient to finance the publication of three issues of Ecos per annum and to maintain a reserve equivalent to producing two issues of Ecos. However Karen Cropper's improvements to our membership database has provided better information showing that our membership has been gradually declining, which situation is clearly not sustainable in the longer term. During this year Karen had collected roughly £2,000 in royalty payments which would improve the 2007 year-end accounts.

Approval of Accounts

Proposed – Graeme Duckworth

Seconded – Diana Pound

Agreed by all

Appointment of Auditors

On behalf of Derek Bensley (Treasurer), the re-appointment of auditors DNG, whom BANC has used for several years, was recommended.

Proposed – Graeme Duckworth

Seconded – Diana Pound

Agreed by all

Elections to BANC Council

The following members had submitted nominations for election to Council:

Derek Bensley
Graeme Duckworth
Mathew Frith
Fran Hitchinson
Peter Massini
Diana Pound
Ralph Underhill

As there were fewer nominations than places on Council, there was no need for a competitive election. Members were asked if they wanted to accept all nominees. At the same time members were asked if they wished to elect the following as Officers of the Association, who were unopposed:

Diana Pound – Chair
Derek Bensley – Treasurer
Graeme Duckworth – Secretary

Proposed – Rick Minter
Seconded – Alison Parfitt
Agreed by all

Any Other Business

The following matters were discussed:

- The possibility and desirability of co-opting further members on to Council;
- The intent to stage a BANC conference in 2008, with the theme ‘Wild Ideas’;
- A proposed short publication of a BANC investigation into the current morale of nature conservation professionals;
- BANC’s relationship with VINE and the possibility of a partnership.

Date & Venue of 2008 AGM

It was agreed to hold the 2008 AGM on Saturday 11th October at a venue to be decided.

The meeting was then brought to a close.