

# BARDSEY BIRD AND FIELD OBSERVATORY

## **DRAFT ----Minutes of the 69th Annual General Meeting held at Canolfen Prenteg Village Hall and via Zoom conference software on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 11.30 a.m.**

### **Present**

Mike Archer (Vice-President), Joe Brownlie (Zoom) (Trustee), Dianne Charles (Chair and Director of Finance), Trixie Collin, Andy Dickinson, Ruth Edwards, Alison Hill (Zoom), Steve Hinde (Vice-President), Joan James, Jill Lawrence, Andy Lawrence (Hon. Secretary), Bob Normand, Alicia Normand (Trustee), Fiona Shutler, Mark Simmonds (Zoom) (Trustee), Emma Stansfield, Dot Tyne, Anne Vaughan, Anne West, Margaret Wright, Ian Wright, Mervyn Wynne Jones.  
In attendance: Steven Stansfield (Director of Operations - SDS).

### **AGM2025-1: Chair's Introduction**

The Chair, Dianne Charles, welcomed everyone to the BBFO's 69th AGM and explained this meeting was to be conducted both here in person at the Canolfan and via the Zoom meeting software platform - it was planned to alternate in-person with virtual AGMs biennially in future. DC thanked the attendees for their time, and it was noted that the meeting was quorate.

### **AGM2025-2: Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Diane Brooker, David Hawkins (President), Judith Reid.

### **AGM2025-3: To approve the Minutes of the 68th AGM held on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2024**

The minutes of the previous AGM were available in the room and had again been made available on the BBFO website (at [www.bbfo.org.uk/agm](http://www.bbfo.org.uk/agm)) prior to the meeting. No changes were noted, and the Chair asked for adoption of these Minutes as a true record – Proposed by Mike Archer: all agreed.

### **AGM2025-4: Report by the Chair on behalf of Trustees, for the year ending 31st December 2024**

The Trustees' Annual Report to the Charities Commission would be that which the Chair had uploaded to the CC's website. This was read by the Chair under this item – a transcript is to be included in the Notes at the end of these Minutes. Ian Wright proposed acceptance and approval of this Report, and all were in favour.

### **AGM2025-5: Adoption of the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024**

The Accounts for the year ended December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024 were distributed to the meeting by the Director of Finance (DC), who also shared her screen with Zoom attendees. DC went carefully through the figures and indicated that they had been examined by Stephen Craig (accountant), who had certified them as being in accordance with the books and records of the charity – thanks to be conveyed. The Treasurer briefly outlined some changes in the finances and noted a surplus of income over expenditure of £8,462.15 and a healthy balance of £175,393.18. DC also noted the variability in some aspects of running the charity, in particular that donations can vary considerably. DC also noted that subscription to The Friends of BBFO would remain unchanged, and monies had been paid to the Director of Operations for overtime associated with the Marine Mammal project. Also of note: the grant from NRW is to end in September and this would be the final payment from this source of income, with other uncertainty associated with changes in the lease for Cristin and the LSA Hut.

Other facets on finance had also changed with many expenses having increased (e.g. salaries and National Insurance up, “poo pit” purchase etc.). The balance sheet was also reviewed and noted that some debtors remain and DC also noted that a change to more “ethical” banking had been made with a fixed term bank account being opened with Triodos Bank.

The Chair asked if attendees were happy to adopt the Report and the Accounts, and adoption was proposed by Mervyn Wynne Jones and these were accepted unanimously. IW noted that he was encouraged that money was not being overspent. The solar power arrangement was again mentioned, and this seems to have generated a saving in the order of £21,000.

**AGM2025-7: Election of Trustees and Officers**

Our Vice-President Mike Archer took the Chair briefly for the proposal and election of Trustees and Officers and read out the names and positions of the remaining people who had been nominated as Trustees and Officers. These were as follows Chair and Director of Finance and Trustee - Dianne Charles; Trustee – Mervyn Wynne Jones; Honorary Secretary and Trustee - Andy Lawrence; Trustee - Mark Simmonds; Trustee - Joe Brownlie. All were elected *en-bloc*, all agreed - unanimously carried. A presentation was made to Alicia Normand to mark the finish of her work in the offices of BBFO – we are all very grateful to the time AN has devoted to the charity, this demonstrated by the sustained applause that followed!

**AGM2025-8: Any Other Business**

a) None.

The meeting closed at 11.57 p.m. and was followed by an excellent presentation by Steven Stansfield on the 2024 year at BBFO and the Marine Mammal Project work.

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## **Notes – Transcript of Chair’s Report to the Charity Commission.**

Although the Observatory season does not begin until March, a lot of work goes on off the island over winter and in 2024, this included a Staff Induction Day in Norfolk in January for Ed Betteridge, joining us for a third season, and Kate Fox, newly recruited and replacing Ollie King as the second Assistant Warden.

A very successful Members’ Day in February saw presentations by Dr Steph Harris and Lauren Evans, who are specialising in tracking Manx Shearwaters.

Steve and Emma attended the Bird Observatories Council meeting in Thetford before returning to the island in early March. As usual, there was much work to be done to prepare Cristin for its first visitors and volunteers Lynda Roberts and Mike Smart were an invaluable addition to the staff team. One notable birding event was the presence of a singing male Corncrake, the first on the island since 2018. Eventually it transpired that there were three separate birds, the highest number of singing males since the 1950s. A smart juvenile Caspian Gull on the South End was the first record for the island and had been colour-ringed in the Netherlands. In October, a Goosander seen in the Wetlands was only the seventh record for the island and the first since 2016. Other highlights of the autumn included Pallas’s Warbler and Little Bunting as well as record counts of Mediterranean Gulls.

Thirty nest boxes for Manx Shearwaters were built and installed in the colony as part of Lauren Evans continuing work with these fascinating birds.

2024 also saw the start of the Marine Mammals Project, funded by the Nature Networks Programme and delivered by the Heritage Fund on behalf of the Welsh Government. Our thanks go to Mick Green for his unflagging effort in securing the funding for this project and it is a fantastic opportunity for the Observatory to be involved in something so crucial to the protection and study of marine mammals on an around the island. It is pleasing to record that a record 78 Grey Seal pups were born on the island in 2024.

We ran two highly successful University weeks, one in April and one in August, and we are grateful to the West Midlands Bird Club, British Birds and WildSounds for their sponsorship of these amazing educational events. Our commitment to the next generation of birders was further evidenced when we hosted several young people as part of the BTO’s YBOV scheme.

A Dutch film crew visited in the spring and the Observatory featured on the BBC’s One Show in July, and more heavily on More4’s Our Tiny Islands. BBC’s Springwatch star Iolo Williams stayed at Cristin and did some filming for a new nature programme. He also provided the narration for a film produced as part of the Marine Mammal Project.

It is with sadness that I must mention an occasion in June when Lofty, one of the island’s great characters, died in a tragic accident near Carreg. Island residents and paramedics worked hard to try and save him, but he was pronounced dead by the air ambulance’s doctor at the scene. Lofty had a special talent for making everyone feel welcome, meeting guests as they arrived on the boat or chatting with them as they were waiting to leave, whether they were regular visitors or first-timers. He touched the lives of many, and his presence will be sorely missed.

My thanks, as always, go to Steve and Emma for their unfailing dedication to the Observatory and to Connor, who embarked on the third year of his degree in the autumn of 2024 but was still on hand remotely to assist with IT related issues. Thanks are also due to Ed and Kate, our interns Jonathan and Ewan and all the volunteers who came to assist the staff on the island during the season. We are grateful to Colin Evans for the provision of a safe and reliable boat service and to the other residents of Bardsey for their kindness and generosity. I would like to thank my fellow trustees for their time and care throughout the year and to all the Friends of Bardsey for their continued support.

**Notes – Accounts.**

**BARDSEY BIRD AND FIELD OBSERVATORY**

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b><u>CURRENT ASSETS</u></b>			
Debtors	1	43,866.21	17,418.00
Stock	2	1,864.79	1,148.40
National Savings Investment Account		4,245.59	4,224.18
Bank Balance		128,589.70	126,683.99
High Interest Business Account		11,006.45	10,843.33
Bardsey Flora Account		1,905.40	1,028.38
PayPal Account		11,970.27	26,858.30
Current Account		<u>203,448.41</u>	<u>188,204.58</u>
<b><u>LESS : CURRENT LIABILITIES</u></b>			
Creditors	3	<u>28,055.23</u>	21,273.55
		<b><u>175,393.18</u></b>	<b><u>166,931.03</u></b>
<b><u>NET CURRENT ASSETS</u></b>			
<b><u>NET ASSETS</u></b>		<b><u>175,393.18</u></b>	<b><u>166,931.03</u></b>
<b><u>REPRESENTED BY:</u></b>			
<b><u>ACCUMULATED FUND</u></b>			
Balance at 1st January 2024		79,335.11	66,165.03
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the Year		<u>8,462.15</u>	<u>13,170.08</u>
Balance at 31st December 2024		<u>87,797.26</u>	<u>79,335.11</u>
<b><u>RESERVE ACCOUNT</u></b>			
		60,000.00	60,000.00
<b><u>AW ACCOUNT</u></b>			
		10,500.00	10,500.00
<b><u>BARDSEY FLORA FUND</u></b>			
		10,843.33	10,843.33
<b><u>HELIGOLAND FUND</u></b>			
		1,421.67	1,421.67
<b><u>TONY CHARLES MEMORIAL FUND</u></b>			
		830.92	830.92
<b><u>BIRDS OF BARDSEY FUND</u></b>			
		4,000.00	4,000.00
		<b><u>175,393.18</u></b>	<b><u>166,931.03</u></b>

BARDSEY BIRD AND FIELD OBSERVATORY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>		
Subscriptions	3,868.00	3,868.00
Donations and Miscellaneous Receipts	5,700.99	11,372.36
Marine Mammal Project	6,000.00	
Income Tax Recoverable	330.90	1,793.00
Grant from NRW	11,825.00	11,825.00
Sales	9,436.35	8,899.94
Visitors Fees	64,679.82	59,043.70
Interest Income	2,090.24	1,074.38
	<b><u>103,931.30</u></b>	<b><u>97,876.38</u></b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>		
Cristin - Rent Expenses	1,590.90	1,590.90
- Running Expenses	20,654.14	20,298.40
Donation to BITL	675.00	
Equipment	1,139.53	1,115.90
Bank Charges	20.57	18.85
Report	3,999.95	3,836.00
Sales Expenses	3,296.56	3,792.09
Salaries and National Insurance	52,090.71	45,220.84
Petty Cash and Sundries including Postage and Telephone	1,859.59	1,612.16
Professional Services	7,000.00	6,000.00
Projects	1,902.89	50.22
Insurance	1,239.31	1,170.94
	<b><u>95,469.15</u></b>	<b><u>84,706.30</u></b>
<b><u>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR</u></b>	<b><u>8,462.15</u></b>	<b><u>13,170.08</u></b>

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NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	<u>£</u>
<b><u>1. DEBTORS AND PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE</u></b>	
Marine Mammal Project	31,741.21
Grant from NRW	11,825.00
Income Tax Recoverable	300.00
	<b><u>43,866.21</u></b>

**2. STOCK**

Promotional Merchandise for Resale	1,864.79
	<b><u>1,864.79</u></b>

Stock is stated at the lower of cost or estimated net realisable value

**3. CREDITORS**

Accommodation	8,685.00
Annual Report	4,029.95
Running Expenses	14,900.60
Salaries	192.50
Treasurer Account	247.18
	<b><u>28,055.23</u></b>

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