



## Helford Marine Conservation Group – Report of Annual General Meeting On VC (Zoom), 7:30 p.m. Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### **Minutes of the previous AGM**

The minutes of the previous AGM, certified accounts and current newsletters containing the Group Report had all been circulated.

The report of the 2019 AGM was accepted unanimously without addition or alteration. There were no matters arising.

Proposed Jackie Whibley, Seconded Chris Hillyer

### **Vice Chairman Dave Thomson**

Asked us to read the report for 2019 That is published in our newsletter.

Dave began by telling us the sad news that David Muirhead was very unwell and had gone into a nursing home in March. He had known him for 13 years through the group and would be sincerely missed.

Tony Sutton, who had been with the HMCG virtually since its beginnings had died following a short illness. A tribute to Tony is in the Newsletter.

We had a very good year for events in 2019 with excellent fundraising on refreshments. He extended thanks to all the volunteers that helped with the events and made them a success and the committee that helped with organisation. He also thanked the volunteers working out on shore to control the Pacific Oysters, that their management was effective and hard work was paying off. Thanks also to Sue Scott, coordinator for all her hard work.

In 2020 COVID has affected everything we do with the events. Not only the government restrictions but the volunteer's individual circumstances as well. However, there will be a way forward between virtual talks and outdoor events with restricted numbers and we have a draft plan for events in 2021. The Cruise- from being able to take 90-100 will only be able to take 40 people as things stand at the moment and we will subsidise some of the cost from funds as this is a valuable event in increasing peoples understanding and appreciation of the river.

### **Apologies**

**Derek Goodwin** and Karen Bryan

### **Financial Statement**

#### ***Treasurer's Report for 2019- Mike Biglin***

Copies of accounts were provided. Thank you to all our supporters including the Duchy of Cornwall who has sponsored the 2020 leaflet. Thank you to Atkins Ferrie for producing the accounts this year.

Memberships were up by 30% in 2019. The bank balance is still healthy and we have just about broken even with income and expenditure.

### **Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner**

Atkins Ferrie, Chartered Accountants in Helston, have kindly provided this service, free of charge, for a number of years. They are happy to provide this service once again.

### **Election of Officers to Advisory and Membership Groups**

The retiring chairman and committee members briefly handed over to Sue Scott. Pamela Tompsett Proposed Dave Thomson to be our Chairman. Seconded by Chris Hillyer. Vice Chairman Jackie Whibley

Proposed Sue Scott. Seconded by Chris Hillyer. Social Media and Newsletter Chris Hillyer. Proposed Sue Scott Seconded Jackie Whibley.

The remaining advisory group officers, those who were present, who were all willing, remained standing and were voted in en-bloc. Chairman; Co-ordinator: S Scott; Scientific Advisers: Dr P E Tompsett, Dr Paul Gainey and Ms Angela Gall. Treasurer Mike Biglin.

The membership committee officers are as follows: Chairman: David Thomson, Secretary and Membership Secretary, Sue Scott.

Jackie Whibley offered to fundraise by approaching potential corporate sponsors.

**AOB** None

**Date of next AGM in 2021**

The date of next Annual General Meeting will be arranged in due course.

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**Talk- Where to Watch Wildlife in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly**

**David Chapman**

Promoting his latest book, David gave us a whistle stop tour of the County and Islands and some of the Species of note and some tips on how and where to catch up with them.

As expected, the photography was outstanding, with many specialities, Chough, Marsh Fritillary, Sundew and Small Red Damselfly amongst many.

He also touched on the recent notable changes, the spread of Beavers into East Cornwall from West Devon, the reintroduction of Water Vole at Bude and some private waterbodies. The extinction in Cornwall of the Heath Fritillary and its subsequent reintroduction and the success story of the Isles of Scilly Seabird Restoration Project.

<http://www.davidchapman.org.uk/>

Dave Thomson Chairman

Sue Scott Coordinator