



Devon Mammal Group

AGM Minutes

4th July 2022

Exeter Phoenix, The Workshop, Gandy Street, Exeter, EX4 3LS

& ONLINE - ZOOM

19:30

Attendees in person: Ellie Knott (EK), Jess Smallcombe (JS), Stephen Carroll (SC), Phil Collins (PC), Sue Smallshire (SS), Ian Crowe, George Greenshields, Adrian Bayley, Robin Hill, & Peter Radlett

Attendees via Zoom: Hilary Marshall (HM), Sarah Butcher (SB), Charly Mead (CM), Kate Hills (KH), Matt Parkins, Alan Shuttleworth, & Stephen Powles

Chaired by Phil Collins

Agenda:

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 2021 AGM
3. Chair's Report
4. Presentation of Accounts
5. Elections to Committee
6. Harvest Mouse Project
7. Any Other Business

Followed by a talk on 'A Day in the Life of an Otter Surveyor' By Ellie Knott

Items
<p>1. Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Helen Calver, Rebecca Robinson, Chris Hughes, David & Maureen Thomas & David Hill</p>
<p>2. Minutes of the last AGM held in 2021 were made available on the website, members were made aware of where they could be found when invited to the AGM Previous minutes accepted members with no changes</p> <p>Proposer Jess Smallcombe Seconder Ellie Knott</p>
<p>3. Chairs Report</p> <p>No chairs report available this year</p>
<p>4. Accounts Summary – A summary of financial status is available on our website under '2022 Annual General Meeting Agenda' Presented by Ellie Knott - Treasurer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Started off the year with £6131.03 in the bank and ended the year with £11131.53 partially due to a large grant that we received for the Harvest Mouse Project (HMP)

.....**furthering the conservation and understanding of mammals in Devon**



Devon Mammal Group

- Donations received from the following:
 - Amazon Smile
 - Ward Chowen Commercial Estate Agents
 - Donations from members
- Gift aid of £245.08 received
- Mistake made in the original accounts as we had money from both the Post Code Lottery Trust (£7,378) and Tesco Bags for Life (£1,000)
- An update to the Harvest Mouse Project accounts has also been made as we have had an extension on our grant from the Post Code Lottery Trust, so the project finished at the end of June

Devon Mammal Group Harvest Mouse Project accounts 2021 – 2022

Opening balance 1st April 2021 **£612.27**

Accounts 2021/22	Income	Expenditure
Grants (Postcode Local Trust & Tesco Bags for Life)	£8,378.00	
Donations	£0.00	
Card Sales (Jess's & Xmas)	£0.00	
Project Officer Time		£4,518.00
Project Officer Travel		£548.10
Insurance		£0.00
Talks/Events	£294.10	£0.00
Training Days		£72.89
Equipment		£2,247.18
Totals	£8,672.10	£7,386.17
Closing balance		£1,898.20

- The Post Code Lottery Trust grant allowed us to buy some equipment:
 - Camera Traps x3
 - Small Mammal Traps x 21
- Additional income from the HMP:
 - Talks and courses run for other organisations
- We have the money to run the HMP for one more year. If anyone has any ideas about where we can apply for more funding please let us know.

Question from PC: What's happening with the money left over from the funding?

EK: The remaining money will be spent on equipment

Proposer Sue Smallshire
Secunder Adrian Bayley

.....furthering the conservation and understanding of mammals in Devon



Devon Mammal Group

5. Elections to Committee:

The following committee members are up for re-election:

Charly Mead
Rebecca Robinson
Hilary Marshall

Rebecca Robinson has resigned from her position as Website Officer
No new nominations for committee members.

Proposer Ellie Knott
Seconder Stephen Carrol

Current Committee as it stands:
Chair - Helen Calver
Vice Chair - Phil Collins
Secretary - Charly Mead
Membership Secretary - Chris Hughes
Small Grants Officer - Charly Mead
Website Officer - Jess Smallcombe
Treasurer – Ellie Knott
Sue Smallshire
Hilary Marshall
Kate Hills
Stephan Carroll

6. Harvest Mouse Project Update

Presented by Sarah Butcher – Harvest Mouse Project Officer

- Very different to last season – Much busier
- The project has been involved in radio interviews, The Mammal Society blogs, BBC Winter Watch, local group talks, group surveys, training sessions including combined sessions with Cornwall Mammal Group, and a heavy online presence
- Lots of public engagement with our social media platforms
- We now have a YouTube channel and a separate website for the project – <https://devonharvestmouseproject.edublogs.org/>
- Some of our material is being used on The Mammal Societies National Harvest Mouse survey page
- Sarah is sitting on the National Steering Group for the National Harvest Mouse Survey and inputting into the methodology
- Sarah is working with neighbouring counties on their harvest mouse projects
- Update to the map to include harvest mouse records from owl pellets
- Additional questions were added to the Survey Monkey form to collect more data when the public submit their records such as what kind of habitat people are surveying on, how long it took to find the first nest on site, and what colour was the nest
- Having an impact on the habitat management on various reserves that the project has worked with

.....**furthering the conservation and understanding of mammals in Devon**



Devon Mammal Group

- Owl pellet activities started; We have worked with the Barn Owl Trust on this and have carried out a few training sessions with volunteers
- Upgrade on the camera trapping project, working with others in the field to help manage time pressures and travel
- 20 new Longworth traps to be deployed next year
- What's next?
 - Continue owl pellet activities, find positive owl pellet records, and trace these back to identify harvest mouse survey sites
 - Trial the new traps with excluders and investigate Harvest Mice home ranges
 - Continue Harvest Mouse surveys on sites we have monitored long term
 - Are the impacts on Field Voles going to impact the Harvest Mice?
 - Will the introduction of Pine Martins affect the Harvest Mice?
- Please send us your owl pellets if you have any
- Why should we keep the project going?
 - 350 people on the mailing list
 - Social media following and national profile is great
 - Recently invested in equipment, it would be good to put all of it to use
 - Good working relationships with other organisations
 - Continued collection of data is important

This concludes the 2022 AGM

.....furthering the conservation and understanding of mammals in Devon