PSNS ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION

Minutes of the AGM held via Zoom on 31st March 2021

The chairperson, Moira Hutchison welcomed nine members to the meeting.

APOLOGIES: Jeanne Freeman and David Merrie

MIUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2020 were read. These were approved, proposed by Moira Hutchison and seconded by Colin McLeod.

MATTERS ARISING: The minutes noted that the Treasurer’s report stated a new subscription of £21 would be payable for the season 2020/2021. It was pointed out that this was a proposal subject to agreement from Council. Due to Covid and suspension of meetings this proposal was never agreed.

CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS: Miss Hutchison pointed out that due to Covid restrictions there had been no meetings or outings. She thanked the committee and members and hoped that we could look to the future and better days ahead.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Jeff Banks had circulated copies of the accounts via email and, as there had been very little change, had not sent them for auditing.

COMMITTEE: This item on the agenda instigated much discussion regarding the continuation of the section. The small number of our members now made it difficult to find and elect new committee members. The proposal by the Botanical section with regard to a restructuring of the Society, amalgamating Botany and Ornithology was discussed. Jeff pointed out there needs to be a bigger presence of the Ornithological section on the website to attract new members. John Wallace felt we would lose members if we amalgamated. John and Monica Duncan were in favour of amalgamation. Others thought it was the only way forward in order to continue. There was also the continuing presence of Covid and the uncertainty of meetings and outings for the new session. It was decided that the members would be contacted with a proposal to amalgamate but with sufficient meetings and outings pertaining to birds. We would need to have a joint meeting with Botany to discuss details and move forward. Jeff agreed to contact the members.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL: Jeff reported from Council that a reduced subscription of £10 to the Society from members had been agreed for the new season. There is a project which has been launched regarding the last 40 years and contributions would be welcome from members. Information about this is on the website.

AOCB: Colin Noted Jeff had given a very interesting talk in the mini Curious Minds series on Bird Supersense. The series is ongoing.

Moira gave a quick resume of our decision to contact members and then have a joint meeting to plan ahead. The meeting closed.