

Rochdale Field Naturalists Society

Annual General Meeting 2025

Date: Thursday 9th January 2025
Venue: Cutgate Baptist Church
Time: 7.30pm
Meeting Chair: Peter Knowles
Minutes: Ian Short

Minutes

1 Welcome

This meeting was postponed from 12th December due to the tragic death of Co-Chair, Linda Turner. Before the meeting we held a minute's silence in memory of Linda and other departed members Les Schofield, Charles Flynn, Marolyn Colley and Beryl Ormston.

Peter Knowles, Co-Chair, then congratulated members on making the effort to attend despite the icy weather, welcomed them to the meeting and opened proceedings at 7.35pm.

1.1 Members Present

Gavin Ashworth	Karen Cowley	Richard Cowley	Pam Crofts	Roger Crofts
Lucy Doherty	Charles Farrell	Janet Gerrard	John Hall	Shirley Hall
Janice Kidd	Pete Knowles	Celia Miller	Vipul Parkinson	Trevor Parry
Ian Short	Jenny Short	Sheila Simpson	Janeane Taylor	Paul Whiting
Gillian Wrigley				

Non Members present:

Paul Gerrard Paul Barrington

1.2 Apologies

Apologies were received from

Ron Powell	Lynn Powell	Pat Culkin	Maggie Culkin	Ruth Hardcastle
Christine Newell	Sue Nielson	Kath Davison	John Fentem	Sandra Greenwood
Laura Ettrick	Joan Carter	Sonia Allen	Clare Farrell	Christine Fleming

This meeting did not reach the necessary quorum of 25% of the current voting membership.

We have 101 members, and only 20 attended.

The meeting went ahead to discuss the items on the agenda, but no decisions could be taken.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the 2023 AGM, held on 14th December 2023, had been circulated to members in advance. They were taken as read and there were no questions or comments.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4 Co-Chairs' Report

The Annual Report had been circulated to members in advance and was taken as read.

It is attached to these minutes.

Pete Knowles highlighted a few matters:

- Pete explained how the Society works, emphasising that we are run *by* members, *for* members.
 - Events and activities are led by individual members, or small groups of members
 - The various activity streams (indoor, outdoor, conservation and education, publicity) all have small teams of members who work together to support event leaders and to deliver events for all of us.
 - The Society is managed by the Steering Group which consists of the elected officers (2 Co-Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer), plus a representative from each of the activity streams
- Some very good things:
 - Our 150th year was very successful, with well attended events and trips to many interesting places
 - We currently have 101 members, 6 more than last year
 - Many thanks to the members who got involved in leading and organising events, recording and reporting sightings – the Society wouldn't exist without you!
 - Pete also thanked the members of the Steering Group for their hard work.
- Looking forward:
 - We have some good plans in place for next year already, but we always need to know about good speakers and interesting places to visit.
If you know anyone or have any suggestions, please let us know.
- We have a problem, though. There have been no volunteers to replace our Treasurer, Ruth Hardcastle, who is stepping down after this meeting. We are also struggling to find people to join the indoor team. The Society doesn't run itself, and events don't just happen. We need people to step up and help.

Ian Short, Safeguarding Lead, formally reminded members that we have a Safeguarding policy, and confirmed that we have had no incidents in 2024.

There were no questions or comments.

5 Finance report

The Financial Report and inspected accounts had been circulated to members in advance and were taken as read. They are attached to these minutes.

In Ruth Hardcastle's absence, Ian Short invited questions from the members present.

There were no questions or comments.

6 Election of Officers

Peter Knowles is continuing as Co-chair.

As we have only received one nomination for the vacant Co-Chair post, **Gill Wrigley** is returned unopposed.

As insufficient nominations for Treasurer have been received prior to the AGM the chair asked for nominations at the meeting from the floor. None were forthcoming. Ian Short explained that the Society cannot function without a Treasurer and warned that it might be necessary for the Steering Group to employ someone, which would be expensive.

Ian Short and **Vipul Parkinson** were confirmed in their co-opted posts of Secretary and Membership Secretary respectively.

7 Honorary Membership proposal

The proposal from the Steering Group to introduce an Honorary Membership scheme had been previously circulated and was briefly discussed. It is attached to these minutes.

In response to a question from the floor, Ian clarified that any Honorary member under 18 must always be accompanied by a responsible adult, which would avoid Safeguarding issues.

No objections were voiced, but a vote could not be taken as the meeting was inquorate.

8 Meeting closed

There being no other relevant business, Pete thanked members for coming and closed the meeting at 7.45pm.

Signed as a true statement of fact: _____ Chair

_____ Date