Minutes of Caradoc Severn Valley Field Club Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 25th February 2026
2.15pm Shropshire Wildlife Trust

1. **Present:** 7 Council Officers and 4 Members

   Apologies: Sylvia Bull, Sue Jones, Ann Grant, Sue Sharpe, Margaret Bowman, Celia Forrest, Debbie Harris, Margaret Cross

John Pope gave the news of the death of Keith Greatorex in January. He was a long standing and loyal member of Caradoc holding several Council posts over the years. His funeral is on the 26th February at the Crematorium.

2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on the 5th March 2025

These minutes were available to the members present and were approved by the meeting, Proposed John Pope, Seconded Jane Gunn

3. Matters arising

Nick informed members that Heather Bennett had been given honorary life membership as part of the thanks for her many years' service to Caradoc. John said that Heather had been immobile for ten weeks after breaking her femur. Heather H said she would send flowers on our behalf.

4. Trustees Report

Nick ran through the 2025 programme of lectures, excursions and the long meeting. Grateful thanks were given to the Council for all their hard work in arranging and running the programme especially as after the resignation of Heather Bennett there were several administrative details to be sorted out on top of the usual duties.

Thanks were given to Shropshire Council for making the Old Market Hall available for our lectures, as well as their two projectionists, Mike and Chris, for the smooth running on the day and to the Shropshire Wildlife Trust for providing administrative facilities to Caradoc as well as rooms for various meetings.

As to the future – while your council members have all agreed to continue in their current posts, we are not getting any younger and we really need 'new blood'. The post of Lecturers Coordinator is still vacant, Heather H and Christine are jointly running it at the moment. Nick then went on to say that he will no longer continue as Chairman or Treasurer after the 2028 AGM. Ideally understudies are needed for 2027. It is up to our membership to keep Caradoc continuing for the future. A member pointed out that we are not alone as an organisation in finding difficulties in recruiting offices.

5. Treasurers Report

The Treasurer presented a slide show of the examined accounts for the year 2025. He stated that the Lloyds Bank account had been changed from a "Treasurer's Account" (no longer available) to a "Charity Account" and that Caradoc is now being charged for every transaction except for those via the internet. Many Caradoc members now pay their subscriptions by standing order or BACS as well as excursion costs, which meant that bank charges would be minimised. One member enquired what percentage of payments were

being made by the various methods, but this was not available on the day. (Secretary's note: the breakdown was subsequently worked out to be 8 Standing Orders (12%), 35 BACS (53%), 19 cheques (29%) and 4 subscriptions in cash (6%) between 2nd January and 27th February).

The interest on our savings accounts had been reduced and were now 1-year fixed rate of 4.66% with United Trust Bank (deposit £6,606) and 2.35% variable with Dudley Building Society (deposit £3,000).

The surplus shown on the accounts of £15 was deceptive, because the charges for the use of the Old Market Hall included 4 bookings for the autumn 2024 lectures which were not charged until early 2025 and members subscriptions were lower in 2025. Additionally, both the Long Meeting and the excursions made healthy surpluses which hid a true loss.

With the rise in expected outgoings a loss of nearly £300 was forecast for 2026.

Nancy Miller proposed that the Treasurer's report be accepted, seconded by Chris Menhinick. All in favour.

6. Membership Secretary's report

Membership is stable, with 2 new members recently, at 82 paid up to date. Joan reminded us that Keith Greatorex had passed on the position of Membership Secretary to her in good order. Two thirds of the bookings for excursions had been by bank transfer and there had been a good response to these.

The report of the membership secretary was accepted. Proposed John Pope Seconded by Heather Hall. All in favour.

7. Re-Election of Officers

Chairman :	Mr N Hall
President:	Mr J Pope
Membership Secretary:	Mrs J Owen
Treasurer:	Mr N Hall
Secretary:	Mrs C Jones
Excursions:	Mr J Pope / Mrs M Bowman
Archives:	Mrs H Hall
Lectures:	(Nominations Invited)

Proposed on block as all had agreed to stand and there were no further nominations.

Proposed Nancy Miller Seconded Josephine Harding

8. Re-Elections of Council Membership

Mrs J Gunn
Mrs C Menhinick

Proposed Nick Hall Seconded Christine Jones

9. Long Meeting

It had been agreed to look at Somerset as a possible venue. John had been looking at possible hotels around Dunster and there were plenty of places to visit depending on the place we stay. The same Council members had agreed in principle to share the days planning as last year. It would be limited to 20 members and open to non members if necessary. A deposit of £50 would secure a place, to be refunded if the event did not have enough support.
Members will be informed in August of the planned visit at the end of June in 2027. It was pointed out that we need people to be prepared to step in to help or takeover if something happens to any of us.

10. Any Other Business

Nick said that he had written to his MP about the postal service as he is getting post with a different postcode to his and he is not sure that members always get the posted programmes from Caradoc.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.10pm.

11. Date of next Caradoc Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 3rd March 2027

DRAFT