



Hampshire and Isle of Wight Butterfly and Moth Society

<https://hampshire.butterflyandmothsociety.org>

Minutes of the Inaugural General Meeting

Sunday 26th April 2026, 10am – 1pm

Littleton Memorial Hall, The Hall Way, Littleton, Winchester, Hampshire, SO22 6QL

1. Attendees

42 members attended.

2. Apologies

4 apologies were received.

3. Welcome

- a. Pete Eeles “PE”, the proposed Chair, welcomed the attendees and talked about the aims of the Society, which are displayed on the website of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Butterfly and Moth Society (called BAMS in the rest of these Minutes). He explained that BAMS was ‘digital first’ in terms of communication with members. BAMS wants to work with other groups that have the same aims, and be a vehicle for the mobilisation of everyone’s enthusiasm. We hope to be the glue that brings like-minded organisations together.
- b. A question was asked about whether the Butterfly Conservation Branch would continue and it was noted that many of its functions were continuing albeit without a local committee, although Butterfly Conservation should be consulted for a formal response.

4. Adoption of the Constitution

- a. Claire Hartt-Palmer “CHP” (a retired Solicitor) introduced the draft Constitution and explained that BAMS was using the simplest legal mechanism to set up a Society, which was an unincorporated association, such that the Committee Members took the responsibility of running the Society with the protection of Insurance (which would be purchased shortly after the Constitution was accepted)

and the creation of a bank account). She explained that she had based the Constitution on examples recommended by the Charity Commission and other similar groups. BAMS was not going to be a formal charity at this stage.

- b. CHP invited questions. One member queried whether a quorum of 50 was perhaps too high a bar to be able to have an EGM. Claire said that perhaps she had been optimistic about the size of the potential membership. It was decided that BAMS would keep this in mind moving forward and possibly amend the Constitution.
- c. A second question raised was why under 18's were not eligible for membership. CHP said it was regrettable, but to do that there would be safeguarding responsibilities and administration, which as a small Society we did not feel we could cover presently.
- d. PE then asked the floor: **To accept the constitution as the official governing document of the Society.**
- e. Nic Burns proposed this and David Murdock seconded this motion.
- f. PE asked for a show of hands in favour of the motion, and everyone raised their hands.
- g. PE then checked and asked if anyone objected and no-one raised their hand, so **the motion was passed unanimously.**

5.Election of Officers

- a. PE then referred to the list of Nominees for the **Election of Officers and Committee Membership.**
- b. Mike Wall proposed the motion to elect the members standing for election and Clive Wood seconded the motion.
- c. PE asked for a show of hands in favour of the motion, and everyone raised their hands. PE then checked and asked if anyone objected and no-one raised their hand, so **the motion was passed unanimously.**
 - **Pete Eeles was therefore duly elected as Chair and Webmaster.**
 - **Lee Hurrell as Vice Chair.**
 - **Claire Hartt-Palmer as Secretary.**
 - **Julie Cox as Treasurer and Membership Secretary.**
 - **Ashley Whitlock as Events Coordinator.**
 - **Kevin Freeborn as Reports Editor.**
 - **Feya Brown as Social Media.**
 - **Rupert Broadway as Committee Member.**

- **Neil Goodall as Committee Member.**

6. Banking

- a. Julie Cox "JC" summarised her recommendation of Metro Bank as a good option for the BAMS bank account. It has low monthly fees and allows 3 officers to sign, with two out of the three to authorise each transaction.
- b. PE then raised the motion: **To open a bank account with Metro Bank and to appoint 3 officers to operate the account and act as authorised bank signatories, with any two officers to sign for each transaction.**
- c. **The three officers nominated were Julie Cox, Lee Hurrell and Claire Hartt-Palmer.**
- d. Neil Goodall proposed the motion, and Rupert Broadway seconded it.
- e. PE asked for a show of hands in favour of the motion, and everyone raised their hands. PE then checked and asked if anyone objected and no-one raised their hand, **so the motion was passed unanimously.**

7. Any Other Business

- a. PE thanked Freya Brown "FB" for producing the BAMS logo and for agreeing to take on the Social Media Role for the group.
- b. PE thanked Jayne Chapman for agreeing that BAMS could use the Facebook group Butterflies and Moths in Hampshire as its vehicle on Facebook.
- c. FB highlighted that she would be using other platforms, including Bluesky and Instagram, as well as considering whether to have a separate Facebook page for BAMS in addition to using the Butterflies and Moths in Hampshire page.
- d. PE confirmed that outreach was important to BAMS and that there would be email communications to Subscribers so that they would still receive the Communications even if they were not on social media.

8. Date of Next Meeting

To be arranged.

9. Close of AGM