



Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

Minutes of the 59th Annual General Meeting Held at 6.30pm on Thursday 3rd November 2022 On Zoom

Attendance

65 members attended

Paul Wilkinson (PW), the Trust's CEO, welcomed the civic dignitaries, Vice-Presidents, Trustees, members, and staff and thanked them for attending the 59th AGM of Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, which this year is on Zoom. PW gave guidance on the Zoom format and the polling function. Members were given a trial run on the voting process.

1. Appointment of Chair

PW proposed that in accordance with Article 6.3 of the Trust's Articles of Association, Nick Parsons (NP) the Trust's Chair, be appointed Chair of the meeting. This was proposed by Martin Willis and seconded by Emma Sherburn.

2. Apologies for absence

NP thanked the Vice-Presidents and members for attending. Apologies were received from Margaret Barlow, Professor Richard Wilson and his wife Gillian, and the Mayor of Rushcliffe, Councillor Tina Combellack.

3. Minutes of the 58th AGM

The minutes of the 58th AGM held on Saturday 6th November were proposed by Valerie Holt and seconded by Mike Spencer. By poll vote of 32 the meeting AGREED the minutes as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

NP asked if there were any questions from the minutes. There were none.

5. Annual Trustees' Report for the year ended 31st March 2022

A presentation was given by the Chair, of the Trust's activities and highlights of the year from the Annual Trustees Report. These points should be read in conjunction with viewing the presentation slides.

NP began by saying that the year had brought some relief following the challenges of COVID with both staff and volunteering returning to near normal levels of activity. The twin points of focus remained as the climate and ecological crises.

The Trust had scaled up its response to the climate and nature crisis and made plans for the next 10 years heavily focussing on sustainability.

In line with this focus the Trust had launched its two visions – one for Idle Valley in the north and the other at Attenborough Nature Reserve towards the south of the county.

One highlight had been the reintroduction of the European Beaver, native though hunted to extinction 400 years ago.

As last year our campaigning continued – 4 major and successful campaigns this year – an ongoing battle with current emphasis on the recent parliamentary changes being proposed.

Looking ahead there is still much to do, not least the aftermath of avian flu – our reserves teams dealt admirably with it – unfortunately seeing the loss of over 400 birds and is sadly still going on.

NP thanked everyone for their support, which is greatly appreciated, needed, and valued more than ever.

Following the presentation NP asked if members had any questions on the Annual Report.

As there were no further questions the Annual Trustees' Report was proposed by Tom Huggon and seconded by Ian Johnston. The meeting AGREED the report by a vote of 42.

6. Audited Accounts Report for year ended 31st March 2022

The Honorary Treasurer, Colin Gibson (CG) presented the accounts. These points are in addition to his presentation slides.

CG said in his introduction that the 2021/22 statutory accounts were on the Trust website. Key information is on page 14: a summary of income and expenditure, with balance sheets on page 15.

CG explained that as predicted the last year had seen a turn in the finances. Despite this a surplus of £172k had still been achieved with EMEC the most notable success producing over £1M of profit with purpose.

This year's approach to running the finances of the Trust has focussed on producing a strong, sustainable, and resilient base for the future.

Sustainability is the key to success and an increase in memberships of over 18% during a two-year period had contributed significantly to that. Business partnerships are also on the increase, organisations both reaping the benefit of investing in the mental health benefits of being outside with nature and forging long term links with the Trust sitting comfortably within their own strategic goals.

CG was very grateful to all our volunteers, and all the hours they put into the trust we would not be able to operate as we do without them.

This year there has been a drive to revamp our assets using the £250k rejuvenation fund set aside last year. This has included a backlog of management tasks; fencing, signage, tree felling and safety measures and some improvements to digital information boards at Attenborough. EMEC has also invested in market research and systems kit.

Costs are still rising with inflation which is contributing to the gap in our finances predicted for the coming year.

CG praised the Finance team who have worked hard again this year. He particularly thanked Diane Lockwood, auditor from Haynes Watts for her advice over many years and wished her well in her retirement.

CG asked for any **questions**.

From a previously submitted written question,

Submitted by Beeston Wildlife Group in relation to the Attenborough Lifeline Appeal.

How much was raised? How much is now available for investment and the management of the site? What are the future plans and do they include extra ranger provision?

CG answered.

Just under £1.3m was raised with £400k put aside for the ongoing running costs and working capital including the operational costs. With inflation at 10% the direct costs will be more than were forecast. The work so far has included works site restoration, car park improvements, and supported a funding bid for the ANR vision.

There was a question from Catherine Blake asking whether any of our outreach programmes would be going into nursing homes.

PW answered

Since the last AGM our two Wilder Nottinghamshire Officers have been appointed as well as our Next-Door Nature City Officer. All these team members are forging relationships with their target local communities, bringing people together and enabling groups to take action for nature. As well as this direct contact we are aware that many groups including schools, youth centres and nursing homes take part in our annual 30 days wild activity.

A follow up question was then submitted from Nigel – on the chat function.

Had the money donated to the Lifeline appeal for Attenborough specifically been spent on habitats and species as promised?

PW answered

Money donated for the Attenborough Lifeline Appeal was not specifically targeted solely at habitats and species. It was designed to enable the purchase of the site and then to

focus on the long-term management of it. Three main areas of spending were originally planned as

- The enhancement of species and habitats
- Developing Attenborough as a centre for visitors – investing in the building and structural issues that a building of this age comes across as a result of being a victim of its own success
- Attenborough to become a research hub. A facility enabled to communicate the challenges of our natural world to the public and a point of contact for local communities.

The Treasurer's report was proposed by Robert Armitage and seconded by Martin Willis. The meeting AGREED the accounts with 29 votes.

7. The Appointment of Auditors

A slide was shown to members confirming Haines Watts willingness to be reappointed as auditors.

The re-appointment was proposed by Mike Spencer and seconded by Ellie Brodie. The meeting AGREED the appointment of Haines Watts as auditors with 37 votes.

8. Election of President, Vice-Presidents and Members of the Council of NWT

NP drew attention to the nominations for President and Vice Presidents listed on the slide. He then asked the meeting to re-elect the current President, Vice-Presidents.

President: Sir Andrew Buchanan Bt, KCVO

Vice-Presidents: The Lord Mayor of Nottingham
The Chair of Nottinghamshire County Council
The Chair of Ashfield District Council
The Chair of Bassetlaw District Council
The Chair of Newark & Sherwood District Council
The Mayor of Broxtowe
The Mayor of Gedling
The Mayor of Rushcliffe
The Executive Mayor of Mansfield District Council
The Vice Chancellor of Nottingham Trent University,
Edward Peck
The Vice Chancellor of the University of Nottingham,

Shearer West
Sir. Martyn Poliakoff
Mike Dilger
John Holmes
Paddy Tipping
Rob Lambert

The nominations were proposed by Shilpa Shah and seconded by Diana Meale. The meeting AGREED the appointments of President and Vice-Presidents with 39 votes. NP

expressed grateful thanks to Mike Dilger and John Holmes who have now been Vice Presidents for over 10 years.

NP read out the 5 nominations for trustees to be re-elected onto Council, Ruth Thurgood, Shilpa Shah, Emma Sherburn, Robert Armitage and Colin Gibson.

NP read out the nominations for new Youth Trustees Kat Hart and Melissa Solomon.

The Trustee nominations were proposed by Sue Spencer and seconded by James Cantrill.

The meeting AGREED the re-appointments and appointments of trustees and Youth Trustees with a vote of 38.

NP thanked Kedijah Eaves O'Connor in her role as a Youth Trustee as well as two longstanding avid supporters of the Trust and in particular local groups – Gordon Dyne and Derick Scott.

9. Any other competent business

There was no other business.

At the end of the meeting NP thanked all for their attendance and support over the year.

Meeting closed 7.28pm