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**Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust**

**AGM MINUTES**

Minutes of the Fifty-Eighth Annual General Meeting and Members’ Day held at The Speech House Hotel, Coleford, Gloucestershire, GL16 7EL, on Saturday 5th October 2019.

**1. The Chairman’s opening remarks**

Tony Richardson, Chair of the Trust, welcomed all members to the Annual General Meeting and Members’ Day and thanked them for attending. He thanked volunteers and staff for their work throughout the year together with Grundon Waste Management, who continue to be the Trust’s largest corporate supporter.

The Chair noted the following highlights from the year:

* Acquisition of Dimmel’s Dale nature reserve. This was made possible by an appeal and a generous donation from a long-term volunteer, Jane Ford, in memory of her partner, David Harman.
* We translocated a population of more than 200 native crayfish that were at risk from the invasive non-native crayfish species.
* The Cradle of the Cotswolds project at Greystones was launched with the official opening of our Discovery Centre.
* In partnership with Avon Wildlife Trust, we have continued the Our Bright Future project working with young people in urban areas of Gloucestershire improving local green spaces for the benefit of wildlife and local communities.
* We worked with the Local Nature Partnership to secure a pledge from all of Gloucestershire’s District Councils to deliver high quality Green Infrastructure through the planning process.
* More than 2,000 people have participated in the Wild Towns programme and more than 12,000 young people have been helped to experience wildlife.

**2. Approval of the minutes of the Fifty-Seventh Annual General Meeting held on 29th September, 2018**

Approval of the minutes of the Fifty-Seventh Annual General Meeting was proposed by Andrew Bluett and seconded by Anne Goodenough. The minutes were approved *nem con*.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes**

No matters had been notified.

**4. Adoption of the Fifty-Eighth Annual Report for the year 2018-2019**

Formal adoption of the Annual Report for the year 2018-19 was proposed by David Pepper and seconded by Nicholas Ford. The adoption of the report was approved *nem con*.

**5. Adoption of the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019**

David Jones, Chair of Finance and Remuneration Panel, summarised the accounts and presented highlights for the year to 31st March 2019:

* Total income for the Trust increased from £3.3m last year to £3.6m this year. This was mainly due to an increase in appeal donations and membership subscriptions.
* Expenditure increased by 17% from £2.9m to £3.4m. A large proportion of the increase was due to increased activity in the Living Landscapes and Survey & Monitoring teams. The remainder of the increase was due to additional activity in the trading subsidiaries.
* Trading subsidiaries increased income from £580k the previous year to £678k in 2018/19 and distributed £99k to the Trust as a donation during the year.
* The net assets of the Trust increased from £4.6m to £4.8m – this is mainly represented by an increase in fixed assets as we added to our visitor facilities at Greystones and Crickley Hill.
* Membership income increased from £1,006k to £1,068k (6% increase) and the Trust had 28,302 members in March 2019 (27,765 in March 2018).
* Over 500 volunteers contributed 36,084 working hours last year, an increase of over 8% on the previous year. This was worth over £415k to the Trust.

Special thanks were due to Grundon Waste Management Ltd, the Trust’s largest corporate supporter, who made a contribution of £102,588 during the year through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Mark Southgate proposed the adoption of the accounts and this was seconded by Andrew Bluett. The adoption of the accounts was approved *nem con*.

**6. Election of Officers**

(a) The following members of the Board, retiring by rotation, had indicated their willingness to stand for re-election to the Board:

Amy Coyte Martin Horwood

Sally Byng Tony Richardson

Re-election was proposed by Anne Goodenough and seconded by Sue Gage. The re-election of Amy Coyte, Sally Byng, Martin Horwood and Tony Richardson was approved *nem con*.

(b) The following had indicated their willingness to stand for election to the Board:

Rosemary McCloskey

David Bullock

The election of Rosemary McCloskey was proposed by Sally Byng and seconded by David Pepper. The election of Rosemary McCloskey was approved *nem con*.

The election of David Bullock was proposed by Nicholas Ford and seconded by Mark Southgate. The election of David Bullock was approved *nem con*.

**7. Appointment of Auditors for 2019/20**

The appointment of Godfrey Wilson Limited as auditors for 2019/20 was proposed by David Jones and seconded by Sally Byng. The appointment of Godfrey Wilson Limited as auditors for 2019/20 was approved *nem con*.

**8. Questions**

Questions were asked and answered on: the demographic of members, Grundon and the Landfill Communities Fund, and Trustees from the Forest of Dean.

**9. Chairman’s closing remarks**

Members were thanked for attending the AGM and for their continued support of Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

*Conclusion of the formal business of the Annual General Meeting*

The AGM was followed by: presentations from staff on key achievements of 2018/19, presentation of the Volunteering Awards and an expert panel discussion on Rewilding.

**Staff Presentations**

Roger Mortlock, Chief Executive, introduced presentations by Del Jones and Kevin Caster on conservation work in the Forest of Dean and by Rosie Kelsall on engagement work in the Forest of Dean and beyond.

Roger Mortlock described further highlights of the year including the pine marten reintroduction in the Forest of Dean, engagement on the plans for the A417, and engagement with the Local Enterprise Partnership. Roger went on to outline plans and challenges for the future including: the HQ and visitor facilities at Robinswood Hill, the Nature on Prescription project, the Environment Bill and the Nature Recovery Network.

**Presentation of Volunteering Awards**

The Armstrong Award was presented to Steve Hemmings.

The Group Award was presented to the Box Wood Community Volunteers.

**Expert Panel on Rewilding**

Anne Goodenough chaired the panel session which included Gareth Parry and Cat McNicol from GWT and Andrew Stringer from Forestry England.

Roger Mortlock

Chief Executive

5th October 2019