



# **Gloucestershire** **Wildlife Trust**

## **GLOUCESTERSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST AGM MINUTES**

Minutes of the Sixtieth-First Annual General Meeting held electronically on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

### **1. Introduction**

Ally Wilson, Director of Engagement and Fundraising, welcomed members to the Trust's virtual Annual General Meeting. Ally explained the house-keeping arrangements including the mechanisms for raising questions, voting and for seeking technical assistance during the meeting.

### **2. The Chair's opening remarks**

David Bullock, Chair of the Board of Trustees, welcomed all members to the Annual General Meeting and thanked them for attending. He thanked staff, volunteers, members and funders for their continued support.

The Chair noted several achievements from the year many of which are outlined in the 2021/22 Impact Report:

- Launch of the 2030 Strategy.
- Implementation of the Estate Review.
- Completion of two large projects based on connecting people with nature: Our Bright Future and Foresters' Forest.

### **3. Approval of the minutes of the Sixtieth Annual General Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2021**

The minutes of the Sixtieth Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were approved.

### **4. Matters arising from the minutes**

No matters had been notified.

## **5. Adoption of the Sixty-first Annual Report for the year 2021-2022**

The Sixty-first Annual Report for the year 2021-2022 was adopted.

## **6. Adoption of the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022**

David Jones, Chair of the Trust's Finance and Remuneration Committee, summarised the accounts and presented highlights for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022:

- Total income grew by 2% from £4.8m last year to £4.9m this year.
- Total expenditure during the year increased by 24% from £3.5m to £4.4m
- After a net loss on investments of £155k the Trust's net income for the year was £300k.
- At the end of the financial year, the Trust maintained emergency reserves at £650k and held £1.1m of funds for restricted commitments plus £405k of unrestricted funds.
- The net assets of the Trust increased from £6.8m to £7.1m
- Our commercial subsidiary, Gloucestershire Wildlife Enterprises Limited had a successful year.
- The Trust had over 28,000 members in March of this year, an increase of more than 1,000 since last year and membership income grew to £1.2m.
- Over 500 volunteers contributed nearly 40,000 working hours for the benefit of the Trust. This was worth the equivalent of over £500k.

Special thanks were again due to Grundon Waste Management, the Trust's largest corporate sponsor, who contributed during the year through the Landfill Communities Fund.

The Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 were adopted.

## **7. Appointment of Auditors for 2022/2023**

It was noted that auditors are reviewed regularly on the basis of their capability and value for money. Godfrey Wilson Limited had been the Trust's auditors for the last few years and they did a good job again this year and their fees are reasonable for the work they undertake.

Godfrey Wilson Limited were appointed as auditors for 2022/2023.

## **8. Election of Officers**

### **(a) Trustees standing for re-election**

The following members of the Board, retiring by rotation, having served an initial term of three years, had indicated their willingness to stand for re-election to the Board for a second term:

David Bullock

The following members of the Board, retiring by rotation, having served two terms of three years, had indicated their willingness to stand for re-election to the Board for a third term:

Sally Byng

Martin Horwood

David Bullock, Sally Byng and Martin Horwood were re-elected to the Board.

**(b) Nominations for election to the Board**

The following, having been interviewed by the Trust's Governance and Nominations Committee, had indicated their willingness to stand for election to the Board:

Emma Waldron

Amy Walsh

Barry Wyatt

Emma Waldron, Amy Walsh and Barry Wyatt were elected to the Board.

Amy Coyte and Jessica Thorne were stepping down as Trustees and were thanked for their contribution to the Trust.

**9. Review of the year and plans for the future**

The Review of the Year included presentations on the Wild Trainees, Foresters' Forest and Rainscapes projects.

Roger Mortlock, Chief Executive, outlined the Trust's plans for the future underpinned by 10 Nature Recovery Zones. Activities include the launch of the Severn Treescapes project, the Eelscapes project in partnership with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, and plans for the creation of a 40 hectare Nature Park along the River Severn in Gloucester.

Roger thanked volunteers who continue to support the Trust across all areas of our work.

**10. General Questions**

Ally Wilson hosted a session which answered the questions that had been raised during the meeting via the Q&A facility. Questions were answered on the Defend Nature campaign, GWT's investments, the impacts of ash dieback on GWT's nature reserves, and the wilding of hedgerows.

**11. Chair's closing remarks**

The Chair introduced the three new Trustees and then closed the formal section of the AGM.

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

Following the AGM, the guest speaker, Professor Jane Hill, Chair of the Royal Entomological Society, gave a talk on how we can help nature thrive in UK landscapes.

A survey was forwarded to all attendees whilst exiting the AGM requesting feedback on the virtual meeting.

Roger Mortlock  
Chief Executive  
17<sup>th</sup> November 2022

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