



Lancashire,
Manchester &
N Merseyside

LANCASHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LTD

Registered Charity No 229325 Company No 731548

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2015

MINUTES

Saturday 3th October 2015

Harrington Building, UCLAN, Preston

Present: Steve Garland (Chair), John Drury (Treasurer) , Ron Wade, Geoff Higginbottom, Jane Ashley, Joe Boyers, Stephen Niven, Clive Elphick, Andrew Berry, Ross Duggan, Andrew Royce (Trustees)

Ms Anne Selby CEO and Members, Staff & Volunteers of the LWT

1. Apologies for Absence

Roger Rees, Duncan Craig (Company Secretary), Anthony Hatton, Richard Thomas (Vice Chair), Hazel Ryan, John Wells, Julian Jackson (Trustees)

Chris Davies (Incoming President), Ted Jackson (Vice President)

Jim Beattie & other Members

2. Approval of the AGM Minutes Held on Saturday October 4th 2014

- a. **Agreed:** The minutes of the AGM held on Saturday October 4th 2014 were proposed by David Beattie and seconded by Joe Boyers and unanimously approved as a correct record

3. Matters Arising From Said Minutes

- a. No matters arising

4. General AGM Business

- a. Presentation of the Accounts for 2014/2015

Introduced and discussed by John Drury, Treasurer with a summary of the accounts given, it was noted that copies of the accounts were available and can also be obtained

from the Lancashire wildlife Trust office at The Barn. A copy of the accounts will also be sent to Companies House.

It was noted that the funding available to bid for had reduced, but we had been able to increase our funding by 5%. Membership income had increased at a time when there was media attention on charity fundraising and it was noted that new legislation is being proposed on fundraising from the public.

Cash balances have increased by £200,000. Brockholes has been subsidised, but the subsidy has halved in the last year.

We have funded around 500 projects over the last year and we have reclassified some funds to be unrestricted.

The Treasurer noted that targets for this year are to break even on Brockholes; diversify our income base; increase membership income; protect unrestricted reserves to invest in new projects; maintain the strength of the balance sheet and maintain cash balances – we have around £1m in the bank at present and anticipate maintaining that this year.

In respect of the Audit Report, it was noted that we changed auditor this year, following a market test, to Moore and Smalley, this is working well. We had a clean audit and the final accounts were approved by the Lancashire wildlife Trust Ltd Council in July.

Adoption of Accounts – Proposed by John Drury, seconded by Geoff Higginbottom – unanimously Agreed

Resolved: Accounts for 2014-15 Agreed

b. Auditor's Report and Appointment

Discussed as above – Reappointment of Moore and Smalley as Auditors –Proposed by John Drury, seconded by Ron Wade – unanimously Agreed

Resolved: Reappointment of Moore and Smalley as auditors - Agreed

c. A Report from the Chairman of the Council Mr Steve Garland

The Chair noted that this was his first full year as Chair and that it was an almost impossible task to summarise all the activities of the Trust in such a short time.

Meeting people around the country in other Trusts who praise our work is very positive. The Biodiverse Society project is an exciting opportunity to put people in touch with wildlife and to hone new skills. The Carbon Landscape work, especially around the lowland peat bogs is great and Steve could never foresee many years ago how much of the lowland peat has been restored.

Brockholes has a very active programme and is moving towards financial stability, including a new Hide that has recently opened.

The redevelopment of Mere Sands Wood is moving forwards and this week the Chair visited Lunt Meadows, which is a fantastic joint project with the Environment Agency on flood defence through creating a nature reserve.

Steve emphasised we need to increase membership to sustain the Trust financially to enable us to do all we do.

Looking forward, there are lots of developments and challenges to come on membership, planning and many other issues.

Finally thanks were given to all volunteers, staff and Trustee for all the hard work through the year

d. Appointment to honorary positions – President & Patron

Anne Selby noted that since the sad loss of Sir Tim Kimber we have been seeking a President with a public profile and a strong track record in conservation. Chris Davies is a former MEP and championed marine conservation through the EU.

Proposed by David Beattie and seconded by Clive Elphick for Chris Davies to be President of Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Resolved: That Chris Davies be appointed President of Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Anne Selby noted that Booths have been a corporate member of the Trust for many years and that the Trust was pleased that Edwin Booth had agreed to take on the role of Patron of the Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

Proposed by Ross Duggan and seconded by Kirk Stephens for Edwin Booth to be Patron of Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Resolved: That Edwin Booth be appointed Patron of Lancashire Wildlife Trust

e. Elections to Council and resignations

The Chairman thanked the Trustees who have stepped down since the last meeting – Roger Hardman, Chris Axman and Andrew Ritchie

Resolved: That the following members who had been properly nominated and seconded in compliance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association be re-elected to Council:

- Steve Garland
- Jane Ashley
- Anthony Hatton

Resolved:

The following members who had been properly nominated and seconded in compliance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association be elected to The Council:

- John Wells
- Julian Jackson
- Hazel Ryan
- Ross Duggan
- Andrew Royce

5. Vote of Thanks

A vote of thanks was given by Clive Elphick who noted that today's Volunteer Conference had been very enjoyable and he was particularly interested in the work around hen harriers.

Thanks were given to the large number of volunteers and staff attending and to all volunteers and staff at the Trust, people who really care about wildlife and conservation, which gives us great strength. It was also remarkable the breadth of volunteering opportunities that were available.

Finally, Clive thanked Anne Selby as our hard working Chief Executive and Steve Garland for his work as Chair of the Trust and all fellow Trustees.

The meeting closed at approximately 2pm