

Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes

16:00 Thursday 21 November 2024

Brockholes Conference Centre & Digital



The Wildlife Trust for
**Lancashire
Manchester &
North Merseyside**

Attendees - Julian Jackson (Chair), Chris Davies, John Wells, Sheila Pankhurst, Ross Duggan, John Loder, Tom Burditt, Jenny Johnson, Steve Wood & Monica Atherton Patel
Digital attendees: Anne Selby, Anya Ramamurthy, Caroline Cowburn, Des Platt, Paul Davies, Jennifer Clear, Janette Nelson, Rev Paul Rooney, Terry Donnelly, Ron Rhodes, Lucie Unsworth, Erica Jones, Joan Hunter, Archie Whymark, Philip James, Alan Hartley-Smith & Lucy Coxhead

1. Apologies: Hazel Ryan, Nick Williams, , Gemma Wren, Deborah Shackleton & James Stocker

2. Approval of the AGM Minutes Held on Saturday 21 October 2023.

Proposal: To approve the minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 21 October 2023. Proposed by John Loder, seconded by Sheila Pankhurst. **Approved**

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes: No matters arising

4. General Business:

a) Presentation of the Accounts for 2023/2024 – Julian Jackson

2024 has been a tough year financially but also a year of considerable activity. Our unrestricted net expenditure during the year was £528,000 after investing in staff and new activities whilst also dealing with challenging economic circumstances.

Membership income, grants and sales contracts were all under pressure in the year causing the overspend on general funds. The main investments in the year were on the Lunt Meadows visitor centre development and the acquisition of 4.7 hectares of land known as Astley Moss extension at Turf Nest Farm.

Lancashire Wildlife Enterprises Limited (the new name for Brockholes Enterprises Limited), our commercial subsidiary had another successful year making a profit, all of which has been ploughed back into the Trust to further our work.

We ended the year with total reserves carried forward of over £10.6m and just under £800,000 in the bank and investments. Work to develop a sustainable financial plan for the next few years to manage our finances is well underway. We thank you, our members, for your support, without you we would not have achieved all the things we have done in the past year.

The accounts were reviewed and recommended by the Finance Sub-Committee and Council in October and were signed on 31 October.

Proposal: To receive the annual accounts for 2023/24. **Accepted**

Proposed by John Loder, seconded by Sheila Pankhurst.

b) Auditor's Report and Appointment

Our auditors, MHA, conducted their audit of the accounts in August and September this year. They found no material adjustments to our figures and identified only a couple of small observations as things for us to review over the next twelve months. The Finance Sub-Committee and Council recommend we re-appoint MHA as auditors for 2024-25.

	<p>Proposal: That MHA be reappointed as Auditors for 2024/25. Approved Proposed by John Loder, seconded by Ross Duggan.</p> <p>c) Financial Outlook Preparing the budget for the current financial year was difficult in the current economic climate. Cost pressures persist even as we begin to see inflation falling. We've seen a reduction in our membership income which is why we are so grateful to those who can continue to support us. We continue to review costs and reforecast our financial position regularly. Our teams are successful in bringing in funding to support our work and we remain positive. Our appeal has raised £192,000 so far, with a target of £300,000.</p> <p>a) Report from the Chair of Council – Julian Jackson Climate change impacts can be seen around the world and in our region with 2024 predicted to be the hottest year yet. Thanks given to members for supporting the Trust to help local wildlife. The Trust has grown and amongst other things, our teams are maintaining reserves, advising landowners, restoring peatlands and coastal habitats and engaging people. Whilst the Trust owns only 0.2% of the land in our region, we have a much greater impact by working with other people.</p> <p>Future Green Finance opportunities will help us step up our impact locally.</p> <p>Thanks, given to staff, members, volunteers, contributors and fellow Trustees.</p> <p>b) Appointment to Honorary Positions – None, Caroline Openshaw tendered her resignation as a Patron 16/04/2024.</p> <p>c) Elections to Council and Resignations Sarie Mairs Slee and Lucie Unsworth are seeking election to Council. Nick Williams, Philip James, Deborah Shackleton & Iqbal Hasan are seeking re-election.</p> <p>Proposal: To Elect/Re-elect to Council: Nick Williams, Philip James, Deborah Shackleton, Iqbal Hasan, Sarie Mairs Slee and Lucie Unsworth. Proposed by John Loder, seconded by Sheila Pankhurst. Approved</p> <p>Hazel Ryan and John Wells are seeking re-election to Council for one year only. Proposal: Re-elect for one year only: Hazel Ryan and John Wells. Proposed by John Loder, seconded by Sheila Pankhurst. Approved</p> <p>We have two retiring Trustees. Thanks were given to both for their contributions over the last 9 years. Julian Jackson thanked Ross Duggan for helping to improve Trustee recruitment.</p> <p>Julain Jackson is retiring as a Trustee and Chair of Council. He handed over to the new Chair, Chris Davies. Chris thanked Julian for sharing his calmness, his business and financial acumen, his passion for the environment and being an excellent Chair.</p>
5.	Signing of Minutes by Chris Davies
6.	Close 4:30

Signed:

Date: