

MINUTES

Meeting	74th Annual General Meeting
Date	21 October 2023
Time	2pm
Location	Whisby Education Centre

Present

Geoff Trinder (President), Anita Quigley (Chair), Joanne Woolley (Honorary Treasurer), 55 other members of the Trust, 8 members of staff and 261 members represented by proxy

Item

In advance of the Annual General Meeting, members had received a copy of the AGM Notice, a Proxy Form and the Annual Review for the year ending 31 March 2023.

Minutes of the 73rd Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 22 October 2022 were approved.

1 To receive the Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2023

- 1.1 A summary of the Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2023 was set out in the Annual Review. The full Annual Report and Financial Statements had been available to members on request and were on the Trust's website.
- 1.2 The Chair reported that although COVID-19 was still prevalent, life started returning to normal as most restrictions were lifted. Area and Watch groups started meeting again and the GLNP conference and Conservation Forum were held in person. Staff and Trustees met for the first time since 2019 at Doddington Hall & Gardens for a gathering in September 2022. It was a chance to catch up with old colleagues and meet new members of staff who had started working for the Trust during the pandemic.
- 1.3 The Retained EU Law Bill was introduced into Parliament in November 2022. The effect of the Bill, if made law, would have been to remove hundreds of environmental laws. Over 80 conservation organisations came together to oppose the Bill, of which The Wildlife Trusts were among the most prominent. After months of protests, the Government did significantly scale back on the final form of the Act but as a result of the Act, it was now easier for present and future governments to weaken or remove legal protection of species, habitats, and the environment with limited consultation and without appropriate parliamentary scrutiny. The Chair stressed that the Trust needed to ensure that the environment was on the agenda of all the political parties, and in the minds of the voters as the country headed towards a General Election.
- 1.4 The Trust achieved much during the year and the annual report highlighted the many achievements against the three strategic goals of Nature in Recovery, People Taking Action and Nature-based Solutions.

Item	
------	--

1.5	Three Trustees stood down and were thanked for their service to the Trust: Emma Buyers, Grace Corn and Tim Sands.
-----	---

1.6	The Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2023 was accepted.
-----	---

2	To receive the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023
----------	---

2.1	Copies of the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 had been available to members on request and were on the Trust's website. An overview of the detail was in the Annual Review.
-----	---

2.2	The Honorary Treasurer reported that compared to the Trust's income of £5.9m in 2020-21, the reported income of £3.3m looked disappointing. However, the previous year was exceptional for a number of reasons. These included funding for two significant projects which had to be reported, in full, up front. In subsequent years, as work on the projects began, this would inevitably show a fall in revenue and increase in expenditure.
-----	--

2.3	Legacy income fell compared to previous years. This highlighted how vital legacies were to the continued work of the Trust. We were very grateful to all those who had already remembered us in their wills.
-----	--

2.4	The audited Financial Statements were accepted.
-----	---

3	To re-appoint Wright Vigar Limited as Auditors for 2023-2024
----------	---

3.1	It was resolved that Wright Vigar Limited be re-appointed as auditors for 2023-24. This followed a tendering process undertaken earlier in the year.
-----	--

4	To elect Trustees (directors)
----------	--------------------------------------

4.1	Members had been advised in advance of the meeting that six nominations were being recommended by the Board of Trustees: Eve Crook, Kitty Hamilton, Sophie Harris, Professor Libby John, Sam Kemp and Caroline Steel. All nominations were approved.
-----	--

The meeting was closed.