



Present: Chris Davies (President), Julian Jackson (Chair), Nick Williams (Treasurer), Hazel Ryan (Vice Chair) Tom Burditt (CEO) and Trustees, Members, Staff & Volunteers of The Lancashire Wildlife Trust Limited (LWT).

Welcome: The President, Mr C Davies, chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone to the Trust's AGM.

1. Apologies for Absence: Ron Wade, Ted Jackson, John Wells, Philip James, Iqbal Hasan, Gemma Grady, Andrew Berry, Gemma Wren, Richard Betts, Satyen Sinha, and Sheila Pankhurst.

2. Approval of the AGM Minutes Held on Saturday October 8th 2022.

Proposal: To approve the minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 8th October 2022.

Proposed by David Beattie, seconded by John Loder. **Approved**

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes: No matters arising

4. General Business:

a. Presentation of the Accounts for 2022/2023 – Nick Williams

For those of you who have already looked at the annual accounts we hope that you like the new look and feel with lots of information about the trust's activities, achievements and financial accounts.

Despite the slightly reduced income and increased costs overall, the Trust ended the financial year in a reasonably good position. Our commercial subsidiary, had another successful year making a profit which has been ploughed back into the Trust to further our work.

The accounts were reviewed by the Finance Sub-Committee and approved and signed by Council on 20th July 2023 and we recommend that you receive them.

Proposal: To receive the annual accounts for 2022/23. **Agreed** Proposed by Hazel Ryan, seconded by Ross Duggan.

b. Auditor's Report and Appointment

Our auditors, Moore & Smalley, conducted their audit of the accounts in May this year and have prepared their opinion on the accounts which is included in the report. They found no material adjustments to our figures and identified only a couple of small observations for us to review which was a very positive outcome. The Finance Sub-Committee and Council recommend we re-appoint Moore and Smalley as auditors for 2022-23.

Proposal: That Moore & Smalley be reappointed as Auditors for 2023/24. **Agreed**
Proposed by Phil Parry, seconded by Deborah Shackleton.

c. Financial Outlook

The current economic environment is difficult and preparing the budget for the current financial year was challenging. Cost pressures persist across almost all areas even though inflation is at last starting to fall. We are seeing a reduction in our membership income which is why we are so grateful to those who are still able to continue supporting us.

We do remain positive about what we are seeking to achieve in 2023-24 but it will be financially challenging.

d. Report from the Chair of Council – Julian Jackson

At the moment, the news is dominated by reports of war, conflict and humanitarian disaster. These events are horrible, and our sympathy must go out to all affected. However, we must not forget that climate change and loss of nature are even greater threats to our way of life and even to human existence. This year we have seen more uncontrollable wildfires, widespread flooding following unprecedented rainfall, and record temperatures again. The eight hottest years in recorded history have all been since 2015.

This year we also had a new state of nature report which chronicles the continued decline in our wildlife. The UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world and common birds, animals and plants are still becoming rarer. It reveals that one in six species are at risk of becoming extinct in Great Britain, including hedgehogs and starlings. The loss of insects, fish and plants affects other species higher in the food chain and ultimately our food production. UK nature is in crisis.

There is, however, some good news in the report. Some species, even those at the top of the food chain such as, Ospreys, Red Kite, Otters, and Beavers, are thriving. This must give us hope. This shows that Conservation projects, such as ours, and strong environmental protections through legislation can have a positive impact on nature, human wellbeing, and the natural resources we rely on. We can and must make nature recovery and climate a priority for the public and politicians alike by applying pressure to change.

You should all be very proud of our wildlife trust and the valuable work it does throughout our area. None of this would be possible without our wonderful supporters: our members, donors, or volunteers. Thank you all however you contribute.

The Trust also couldn't function without our wonderful staff whether they work in customer facing roles or in support roles. They are dedicated, knowledgeable and professional. I am always amazed by what they achieve with very limited resources. Thank you all.

e. Appointment to Honorary Positions

We don't have any new appointments to honorary positions, but we do have a resignation to record. Chris Davies has asked to stand down as honorary president to become a trustee where he can provide more support to the Trust.

f. Elections to Council and Resignations

We have three retiring Trustees: Ron Wade, Satyen Sinha and Andrew Berry. Thanks, were given to all three for their work, advice and support over the years.

New candidates: James Stocker, Jim Thompson, Richard Betts and Chris Davies. All bring much needed skills and experience and are passionate about nature and wildlife.

Re-elections: John Loder and Joan Hunter are seeking re-election. As well as their work on committees they are keen and experienced naturalists who help the trust and other organisations with Wildlife surveys.

Proposal: To Elect/Re-elect to Council: Joan Hunter, John Loder, James Stocker, Jimmy Thompson, Richard Betts and Chris Davies. **Agreed**

Proposed by Steve Garland, seconded by Pete Olsen.

5. AOB

The President invited items for any other business but there were none forthcoming. He suggested attending the workshops today for anyone wanting to give feedback on the work of the Trust.

The meeting was closed at 11am by thanking everyone for their attendance. The minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 8th October 2022 were signed by the President, Chris Davies.

Signed:

Date: