

MINUTES OF THE 42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LONDON WILDLIFE TRUST

Held at Camley Street Natural Park, 12 Camley St, London N1C 4PW

Saturday 30th September 2023 from 3:00 – 6:00pm

Attendance:

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Members (excl. Trustees) | 29 |
| Trustees | 8 |
| Staff members | 17 |
| Total | 54 |

Proxy votes:

| | |
|--------------|----|
| Invalid | 0 |
| To the Chair | 11 |
| To another | 0 |
| Total | 11 |

Valid votes:

| | |
|-------------|----|
| Attendance | 44 |
| Proxy votes | 11 |
| Total | 55 |

Welcome by Chair:

Welcome and introductions given by Rufus Radcliffe, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Congratulations given to Mathew Frith, Director of Policy & Research at London Wildlife Trust (LWT) on receiving MBE.

Chair highlighted some key achievements of the Trust over the past year: Rewilding London Fund – launched two rounds of funding aiming to support the enhancement of London’s sites of importance for nature conservation (SINCs) network carried out in partnership with Mayor of London. 22 projects have been greenlit; Chair highlighted two projects in particular: the reintroduction of harvest mice in Perivale Wood & the introduction of beavers to Ealing. Round 3 of the funding was launched on Monday 25th September and Mathew Frith & Trustee John Tweddle will both continue to sit on the taskforce board.

LWT is leading the conversation sector on biodiversity net-gain (BNG) on behalf of the Greater London Authority GLA, defining what BNG means for London and local authorities. LWT recently held a conference at Camley Street attended by heads of policy & planning of 25 out of 33 local boroughs and continue to hold workshops and planning teams to keep the conversation and importance of the work highlighted. The plight of glow-worms was recently emphasise by a Guardian article and the important work done by LWT has been recognised. LWT have received funding to help reintroduce glow-worms across several of our reserves in South and West London. These projects and the impact highlighted here are only possible due to the amazing financial foundations at the Trust.

LWT is in a very strong financial position as of now, commercial income to support our nature recovery work is through the roof – one example discussed was that private hires at our hub sites are showing 140% against target, and between April – October we’ve had 54 weddings at Woodberry Wetlands, Walthamstow Wetlands & Camley Street. This extends the LWT brand, brings income in for the Trust and allows flexibility around how we bring about impact for nature. Huge thank you to Charlie Sims, Director of Visitor Experience who oversees this work.

Education programmes are going from strength to strength under Leah McNally, Director of Learning, Youth and Communities. School learning programmes reached an outstanding 10,000 children in the past 12 months and Keeping It Wild (KIW) programme continues to grow & now 10% of LWT staff have been past participants of the KIW programme.

It is a moment of transition at LWT as Gordon steps down as CEO to be replaced by David Mooney. A huge thanks to Gordon who took over in 2017 and played a vital role in putting LWT on a stable financial footing. Under Gordon's leadership the Trust has had a huge increase in turnover, enabling us to have more impact for nature. Key highlights include but are not limited to: the launch of Woodberry and Walthamstow Wetlands and Camley Street visitor centre; 40% increase in membership numbers, introduction of the Youth Board, more influence than ever before with Rewild London project, biodiversity net gain (BNG) work & relationship building with local authorities, Mayor of London & GLA. Big thank you to Gordon and the SMT team he has built. Farewell to Trustee Dr Melissa Glackin who served two terms of 3 years and to Trustee Amy Mount.

1. Introduction of the AGM Formal Business

Dr Stephen Snaith (Hon Secretary) introduced the formal business of the meeting. There were no formal apologies received. Invitation for any missed apologies to be given at the break and added to the formal minutes for the AGM before publication.

Apologies: Elaine Sullivan, Rachel Starling, Amy Mount.

2. Minutes of the 41st AGM

Hon Sec reminded all that minutes are available online for members to view at the LWT website. The 41st AGM minutes were accepted as a true record by a show of hands from members and signed by the Chair; there were no votes against or abstentions.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising. Question from member on whether a quorum is needed for AGM to go ahead. Answered by Hon Sec that a quorum of 50 votes (including proxy votes) is needed and this had been reached.

4. Presentation and approval of Audited Accounts for year ending 31st March 2023

Hon Sec reminded all that accounts are available online for members to view at the LWT website. Hannah Fox (Hon. Treasurer) summarised the accounts for the last financial year. Accounts were audited by Crowe UK LLP again this year. They gave us a clean audit report and the Audit Findings Report they provided to the Finance Committee was overwhelmingly positive with no significant issues identified – which is a huge credit to the hard work of the finance team. Counter-intuitively covid increased our income – partly because it brought future money forward as grant funders came to our aid, and partly due to government schemes like furlough and rates relief, hence the surplus in those years that you can see on the graph. As we always envisaged, we are now slowly spending some of it down as we get back to normal trend lines. Therefore, there was a small surplus in 2021-22 and a small deficit in 2022-24 as expected. Income increased by £½ mill to £4.8 million. Expenditure of £5 million. Overall, a small deficit of £246k which is in line with plans and expectations. Net assets of £4.25 million and currently have Reserves of £628k. We reviewed our reserves policy in detail in year, looked at the risks we face and their likely financial impact. Set target range of £375k - £500k. We have exceeded target range, so plan to invest in face-to-face fundraising leading to long term security and non-financial benefits such as increasing our reach and engagement, thus increasing our credibility as seen to represent more Londoners. Big thank you to all our supporters and funders for enabling the excellent work of the Trust to continue.

Question from member on why there is a steep decline in graph?

- We don't include predicted income from funding on this graph in case it doesn't come hence the graph looking like it has a steep decline.

Question from member on spending on staff costs vs projects/charity aims?

- Difficult to break down to percentages but rough answer is that over 75% goes on activities.

The Hon Sec proposed that the accounts be approved; seconded and approved by show of hands with majority approval; 0 abstentions; 0 against.

5. Reappointment of Auditors

The Hon Sec recommended the continued use of Crowe UK LLP as the Trust's auditors. This was seconded and approved by show of hands with majority approval; 0 abstentions/0 against.

Hon Sec thanked Hon Treasurer Hannah Fox and finance team.

6. Reappointment of Trustee

Hon Sec formally proposed the reappointment of Dr John Tweddle for a further year under rule 38(1), which was seconded and this appointment to the Board was approved by show of hands with majority approval; 0 abstentions/0 against.

7. Appointment of new Trustees

Shara Samra, nominated by the Board, gave a brief introduction to why she wished to join as a Trustee of London Wildlife Trust.

Hon Sec formally proposed her appointment, which was seconded and Shara's appointment to the board was approved by show of hands with majority approval; 0 abstentions/0 against.

8. Proposal for Board 2023/24

Hon. Secretary Stephen Snaith confirms the board of Trustees for 2023/2024 as Rufus Radcliffe, Dr Stephen Snaith, Hannah Fox, Dr John Tweddle, Kapila Perera, Tony Richardson, Andrew Stephen, Rachel Starling and Shara Samra.

This was approved by show of hands with majority approval; 0 abstentions.

Hon Sec thanked all members of Board of Trustees.

9. Youth Board

A round up of Youth Board highlights from the year was given by member of the Board Jazzie Peffly. Key highlights include curating a presentation and Q&A for 50 CEO & SMT delegates from Trusts nationwide at the Wild Leaders Conference, curating and delivering the Youth in Nature Celebration Event and participating in mentorship programmes. Jazzie introduced the new Youth Board members for the upcoming year. Youth board members staying on from last year are Andrew Dixon, Kamron Roberts, Isabella Mahoney, Jazzie Peffly, Katie Morello, Alan Yap. New members for 2023-24 are Charlotte Fraser, Nishat Khurshed, Queen Tanimowo, Taha Tariq, Ryan Asher, Maria Namani.

10. AOB

No formal AOB raised ahead of AGM. Hon Sec invited attendees to propose AOB during meeting but none raised.

11. Address by new Incoming CEO - David Mooney

Chair discussed recruitment process for new incoming CEO and welcomed David Mooney, current Director of Development at LWT.

Address by LWT's new incoming CEO David Mooney. David spoke on his career spanning from secondary school teacher to his varying roles at LWT beginning as Education, Outreach & Wildlife Officer at Hackney in 2017 to current role as Director of Development. Key highlights in his career include development of Walthamstow & Woodberry Wetlands, steering consultancy work at the Trust and developing large scale natural heritage & habitat restoration projects. His long-standing love of nature and the importance it plays in his life and will continue to nurture at LWT. Huge thanks given to Gordon for leadership, mentoring and guidance over the past 8 years. Thanks to members and supporters and excited to lead in the coming years at LWT.

12. Q&A – Rufus Radcliffe, Chair & Gordon Scorer, CEO & David Mooney, Incoming CEO.

Close of Formal Business at 4:30 pm

Members' evening begins

Tea & cakes served

4:45 pm Overview of the Year - Mathew Frith, Director of Policy & Research

5:45 pm Closing remarks and thank you – Gordon Scorer, Chief Executive Officer London Wildlife Trust