



MINUTES OF THE 43rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LONDON WILDLIFE TRUST

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

Saturday 5th October 2024 from 3:00– 6:00pm

Attendance:

Members (excl. Trustees)	41
Trustees	9
Staff members	12
Total	62

Proxy votes:

Invalid	0
To the Chair	38
To another	0
Total	38

Valid votes:

Attendance	41
Proxy votes	38
Total	79

Welcome by Chair:

Welcome and introductions given by Rufus Radcliffe, Chair of the Board of Trustees. The Chair announced the Trust's brand-new strategy, highlighting the urgency of the current ecological crisis, with 41% of species in decline and huge habitat decline. The Chair emphasised the need to bring nature back, reconnect with it, and recover our natural inheritance. The tone of the new strategy reflects this urgency and the team's focus on driving impactful change. Over the next five years leading up to 2030, the Trust is determined to reintroduce species like never before and to work with Greater London Authority (GLA) and Hillingdon Council on rewilding at scale. We'll do this in partnership with the Trust's members, Youth Board and broader youth movement, leveraging our growing influence over policymakers, landowners, and regional stakeholders.

The Chair outlined several goals, including rewilding 100 acres of greenbelt in Hillingdon and reintroducing species such as beavers in Barking, white storks in Dagenham and water voles on the River Crane. The Trust will build upon its network of visitor centres, which serve as hubs for nature professionals and local communities, with new opportunities in Grosvenor Square and Gunnersbury Triangle. This strategic shift from nature conservation to nature recovery marks a significant change in focus for the Trust. The Chair attributed the ability to pursue this ambitious strategy to the Trust's growth in membership and income. Memberships have risen to 12,000, growing by approximately 2,000 annually, giving the Trust a stronger voice for nature and greater influence than ever before. Record income of £5 million was reported, with a target to increase this by over 50% in 2030.



Reflecting on the past year, the Chair acknowledged the departure and incredible job of former CEO Gordon Scorer and praised current CEO David Mooney for his impactful work and the exciting new strategy, produced by David and the team. Although he was unable to attend, the Chair also thanked and said goodbye to one of our trustees Dr John Tweddle, who joined the Trust in 2017 and has been an outstanding Trustee.

1. Introduction of the AGM Formal Business

Dr Stephen Snaith (Hon. Secretary) introduced the formal business of the meeting. Collecting apologies for those that could not make the meeting. Invitation for any missed apologies to be given at the break and added to the formal minutes for the AGM before publication.

2. Minutes of the 42nd AGM

The Hon. Secretary reminded all that minutes are available online for members to view at the London Wildlife Trust (LWT) website and a link was also sent out via email. The 42nd AGM minutes were proposed, seconded and accepted as a true record by a show of hands from members; there were no votes against or abstentions.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Presentation and approval of Audited Accounts for year ending 31st March 2024

The Hon. Secretary 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, reporting a clean audit from Crowe UK LLP, with no significant issues identified – which is a huge credit to the hard work of the finance team. Reviewing the financial trends chart showing the income and expenditure over the last seven years, the Hon. Treasurer noted steady growth.

As mentioned last year, 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 rate relief, hence the surplus in those years that can be seen 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 deficit in both 2022/23 and 2023/24 as expected. Looking at this year's figures, our income increased by 16% compared to the previous year, to £5.6 million. £1.6 million has come from donations and legacies, £2.3 million in grants and contracts, and £1.7 million from trading income – such as cafés and events at Camley Street, Woodberry and Walthamstow Wetlands.

Expenditure also increased by a similar amount, to £5.7 million. Just under half of this is on staff, which is our greatest asset, and we have 74 full time equivalent members of staff now. About £1.3 million of expenditure was on trading activities. The remaining was spent on nature reserve management and conservation, visitor engagement, membership and fundraising, and costs in cafés. Overall, we had a small deficit of £58k, which is in line with our plans and expectations. The Hon. Treasurer then reviewed our balance sheet, showing a snapshot of LWT's financial position as of 31st March 2024. It showed net assets of £4.2 million. Half of our net assets are fixed assets, primarily land and buildings. £0.7 million of investments, which is an



endowment that we received from the National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2017. It is invested currently, and we can now start spending it but haven't yet. The remaining assets include cash, debtors and creditors, all in a healthy position. Unrestricted reserves totalled £751k, exceeding the target range of £500,000, as was the case last year. Last year we invested in our reserves and our staff and spent our reserves down, but with the work of our fundraising team, once again we've exceeded our target at the year end. We now have a new strategic plan, and to support this we're currently working on a detailed business plan which will help us to work out where to focus our resources to have the biggest impact. The Hon. Treasurer concluded by affirming that the Trust is in a healthy financial state, progressing as forecasted, and well-positioned to continue its impactful work. A big thank you was extended to all supporters and funders for enabling the excellent work of the Trust to continue.

The Hon. Secretary proposed the approval of the accounts. The proposal was seconded and approved by show of hand, with majority approval, one abstention, and no votes against.

5. Reappointment of Auditors

The Hon. Secretary proposed the continued use of Crowe UK LLP as the Trust's auditors. This was seconded and approved by show of hands with all in favour; no abstentions or votes against.

6. Number of Board Trustees

The Hon. Secretary proposed the increase in the number of Trustees on the Board of Directors, from 10 to 12. This was seconded and approved by show of hands with majority in favour; 1 abstention; 0 against. We will now advise The Charity Commission and Companies House with the change in Article 28.

7. Reappointment of Trustee

The Chair proposed the reappointment of Dr Stephan Snaith for a further year, which was seconded and approved by show of hands all in favour; no abstentions or votes against.

8. Appointment of new Trustees

The Hon. Secretary proposed Marcus Adams and Dani Rayner as new Trustees. Short introductions were given by both Marcus and Dani. Marcus described himself as energetic, driven and passionate about nature and the city. With extensive experience of major regeneration projects across the UK and internationally, including new urban quarters, mixed-use neighbourhoods and garden communities, he has created places that are ecologically rich and climate resilient, and that contribute to nature recovery and biodiversity net gain. Marcus strongly believes in meaningful community and stakeholder engagement and drives design excellence and innovation through participatory and collaborative co-design processes. He has long been a supporter of LWT and has most recently collaborated with the Trust in creating new bio-diverse parkland at The Green Quarter in Southall. In this role as a Trustee, he is committed to advocating for nature recovery initiatives and is keen to facilitate discussions of environmental issues. Dani specialises in marketing and is currently working at Netflix as Director of Marketing, Planning & Operations for Europe, Middle East and Africa, having previously worked at BAFTA and the BBC. Dani has brilliant experience at brand building and is excited to work with Violet and the wonderful marketing team to help drive the new strategy into place. The Hon. Secretary proposed that Marcus and



Dani are appointed as Trustees. This was seconded and approved by show of hands with all in favour; no abstentions or votes against.

9. Proposal for Board 2024/25

Farewell given to Dr John Tweddle, who has finished his term. The Hon. Secretary then proposed the board of Trustees for 2024/2025 as: Rufus Radcliffe, Dr Stephen Snaith, Hannah Fox, Kapila Perera, Tony Richardson, Shara Samra, Rachel Starling, Andrew Stephen, Dani Ryder and Marcus Adams. This was seconded and approved by show of hands with all in favour; no abstentions or votes against.

10. AOB

No formal AOB raised ahead of AGM. The Hon. Secretary invited attendees to propose AOB during the meeting, but none were raised.

11. Break at 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm.

Tea & cakes served.

12. Members' evening begins

4:30 pm LWT Strategy 2030 – David Mooney, CEO London Wildlife Trust

4:45 pm Review of the Year – Senior Management Team, London Wildlife Trust

13. 5:20 pm Q&A – Rufus Radcliffe, Chair & David Mooney, CEO.

Question from member on whether we are collaborating with other organisations such as City of London to help the wildlife recovery strategies?

- Yes, as much as we possibly can. We work very closely with the City of London. Another example given was The Royal Parks, due to close relationships of Trustees. We have ongoing relationships, want more, and are constantly having conversations with other organisations and networking.

Question from member on how are Trustees remunerated?

- They are not remunerated. Trustees give their time because they are passionate about the mission of the Trust.

Question from member on whether we could use a more ethical bank than HSBC and if we have any investments in ethical banks?

- We have looked into this and understand the problem of investments made by banks. The impact of changing banks on our finance team and our resource is vast. The smaller banks, which may have more ethical practices, do not offer the services we need and the investment opportunities. Unfortunately, almost all banks generally are investing in problematic services.
- We have our endowment fund invested with CCLA (a charity fund manager).



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14. Members' evening continues

5:40 pm Reading from Wild City – Florence Wilkinson, Author

6:00 pm Closing remarks & thank you – David Mooney, CEO London Wildlife Trust