



NORFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST

Minutes of the Trust's 91st Annual General Meeting Thursday 25th October 2018, 6.30pm The Suffolk Suite, Sprowston Manor, Wroxham Road, Norwich

Present: Bill Jordan (President)
David Thompson (Chair)
37 Trustees and Members

In Attendance: Pamela Abbott (Chief Executive Officer)
Marion Riches (Executive Officer)
Senior Managers and other staff

The President welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the Trust's 91st AGM. A special welcome was extended to the new CEO, Pamela Abbott; to her first AGM.

Apologies were received from Mary Dorling, Jon Humphreys, Jeff Price and Geoff Randall.

FORMAL BUSINESS

Resolution 1

To receive the Report of Council and approve the Report and Audited Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2018.

The Chair noted the Treasurer, Jon Humphreys, who was unable to attend today's meeting, would be stepping down from the role and thanked him for all his support and oversight of the Trust's finances over the years.

Proposed by: Ann Roberts

Seconded by: Phil Norton

Resolution 1: Approved

Resolution 2

To re-appoint Larking Gowen LLP as the Trust's auditors and authorise Council to determine their remuneration pending a tender process for the audit service.

Proposed by: Martin Shaw

Seconded by: Sue Roe

Resolution 2: Approved

Resolutions 3 and 4

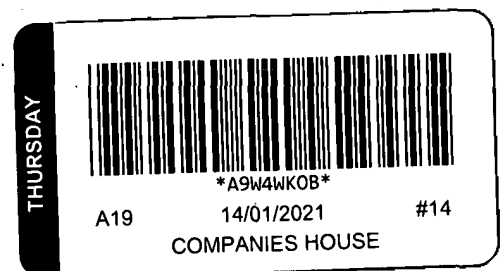
To re-elect members of Council:

Resolution 3 – Greg Beeton

Proposed by: Ann Louise Kinmonth

Seconded by: John Sharpe

Resolution 3: Approved



Resolution 4 – Sue Roe
Proposed by: Jane Hardy
Seconded by: Garth Inman
Resolution 4: Approved

Resolution 5

To approve nomination of Garth Inman as a Vice-President

The President invited Martin Shaw, Vice-President, to say a few words highlighting Garth's contribution to the Trust during his time as Trustee.

Proposed by: Martin Shaw
Seconded by: Heather Tyrrell
Resolution 5: Approved

The Chair noted that Ann Roberts would be stepping down as Trustee after 6 years on Council. Life membership was awarded to Ann for her commitment to the Trust.

Special Resolution 6

To approve updates to Article 45 of the Articles of Association

The Chair noted that the changes proposed to Article 45 are to ensure members of Council are not required to step down during their first three-year term of office and the Chairman is not required to step down during their first three year term of office as Chairman. The reference to an upper age limit of 75 years is also to be removed.

Three questions relating to this item were received from the floor:

1. It was queried why the age limit of 75 years was being removed – Phil Norton, Trustee, stated this was to eliminate age discrimination
2. It was asked if young people were being encouraged to join the Board of Trustees – the CEO announced that the Trust was working with Easton College to encourage young people onto the Board.
3. It was noted that the Articles of Association are not gender neutral – the CEO stated this was an area that will be looked at and changed in the future.

Proposed by: Greg Beeton
Seconded by: Garth Inman
Special Resolution 6: Approved

There being no further business, the President closed the formal part of the AGM.

INFORMAL BUSINESS

1. The President welcomed the Chair to give his address, of which a condensed transcript is given below:

'I would like to add my personal welcome to Pamela and say what a privilege it has been to see her tackle her first few months.

A special welcome to Peta Foxall. I first met Peta at a Chairs' Induction at the Wildlife Trust's office, and was immediately struck by her confidence and engaging manner. So it was no surprise to me to see her on the platform at the next Chairs conference in Lancashire. Although my intuition was well-founded, her appointment as Chair of RSWT was based on more than that: she was chair of Devon Wildlife Trust with leadership experience in a wide range of sectors, including the NHS, higher education institutes and charities. A biomedical scientist by training, with a PhD in biological chemistry, Peta is also lead governor of an NHS Foundation Trust and was Professor and Director of postgraduate programmes at the University of Exeter Medical School. I think she describes herself as an "intuitive collaborator and solution seeker to protect the natural environment" I am delighted she has agreed to come to our meeting.

May I also offer my personal word of thanks both to Ann and to Garth for the work on Council.

At last year's AGM Brendan Joyce had just begun to explore with us his intention to step aside. By the report year's end, the momentous step was taken, the post had been advertised and filled. It wasn't until June, though, that Pamela joined us.

Although the celebration of Brendan's impact on the Trust, and his legacy is strictly therefore a matter for 2018-19, it is only right that his 'valedictory' has found its place in this year's Report.

The key messages for the Trust now are to build on the solid base and reputation built up over decades, to work with others to achieve our goals, to raise the profile of our work both within and outside Norfolk, and not to be downcast in the face of uncertainty because we have a compelling agenda and fantastic support!

2. The CEO acknowledged the outstanding and far-reaching work carried out by the previous CEO and went on to highlight issues and opportunities with wetlands. It was noted that a project proposal was recently submitted by the Trust in collaboration with the Broads Authority to improve the water quality in Ranworth and Barton Broads. The CEO asked members and supporters to contact their MPs to help influence environmental legislation.

3. Sydney Long Medal 2018
Two medals were presented:

Dr Tony Leech, Chairman of Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society and Trustee of Norfolk Wildlife Trust, presented the Sydney Long medal to Dr Roy Baker for his contribution to services to Nature Conservation.

Brendan Joyce, former CEO of Norfolk Wildlife Trust, presented the Sydney Long medal to Bill Boyd for his contribution to services to Nature Conservation.

Both Roy and Bill gave short speeches and extended their thanks to Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society and Norfolk Wildlife Trust for the honour of receiving their medals.

4. One question from the floor was received as follows:

- Would the Barton Broad Working Group be resurrected?
The CEO stated that if funding came available for this then it would be looked at.

Following a break for refreshments an illustrated talk highlighting the strength of the national movement and showcasing 'Our Bright Future' was given by Peta Foxall, Chair of the Wildlife Trusts.

A short film about restoring water bodies was shown.

The President thanked Peta for her informative and interesting talk and thanked everyone for attending the AGM, wishing them all a good evening.