

**Unconfirmed Minutes of the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust held at  
10.30am on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at Loreto College, Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RQ**

**PRESENT**

**Members of Council**

Chairman: Mike Master  
Treasurer: Clive Hinds  
Trustees: Olivia Bertham, Lisa Clavering, Keith Cotton, Laura Horton, Jackie Hunter, Sarah Kohl,  
Kathryn Mackenzie, Peter Tallantire, Louise Turner

**Members**

Derek Angell, Jacqueline Angell, Anne-Valerie Brossier, Stephen Coade, Ruth Cotterill, Derrick Crump, Peter Delaloye, Birgit Dohrendorf, Caroline Donatantonio, David Donatantonio, Brian Dowsett, Elizabeth Dowsett, Dick Elms, Carol Elvin, Ann Finney, Martin Finney, Ken Golding, Margaret Goodfellow, Allan Goodfellow, Derrick Guy, Wendy Hartnell, Martin Ketcher, Judith King, Paul Knutson, Marilyn Lawless, Graham Lewis, Angela Master, Richard McKay, Patricia McKay, Alison Monckton, Janice Neal, David Neal, Humphrey Norrington, Glenys Parry, Michael Pym, Lindsay Rawlings, June Redgrove, Alan Reimer, Dennis Rimmer, Valerie Schicker-Hill, David Seabrook, Rose Seabrook, Steve Shaw, Elizabeth Smith, Bernard Spatz, Helen Stamp, Michael Stewart, Catherine Sullivan, Peter Tatton, Caroline Tough, Kim Waddup, Lynn Walker, Robert Walker, Stuart Warrington, Andrew Watt, Chris Weeresinghe

**Members of Staff**

Chief Executive: Lesley Davies

Astrid Biddle, Chloe Edwards, Tim Hill, Josh Kalms, Hayley Lewis, Emma Norrington, Sarah Perry, Rachel Rogers, Sarah Rutherford, Esme Staunton Howe, Becky Vernon-Clinch, Alex Waechter, Steven Werrell, Jo Whitaker

**APOLOGIES**

**Members of Council**

Vice Chairman: Veronica Edmonds-Brown

**Officers**

President: Sir Simon Bowes-Lyon

Vice-President: Robert Wilson

**Members**

Leo Boulton, Annie Boulton, John Boulton, Florence Boulton, Alan Bradley, Malc Cary, Elizabeth Clark, Deborah Droy, Richard Endacott, Susan Featherstone, Mark Ford, Gillian Goddard, Robert Greenhill, Robert Husband, Stephen Jarvis, James Killen, Marisa King, Peter Medcalf, Sally Miles, Tove Nisson Huntley, Anthony Oliver, Keith Pinn, Paul Reynolds, Linda Rodway, Neil Shepherd, Patrick Shirley, John Silvertown, Nigel Smith, Jenny Stephen, John Telford, Kelvin Thomas, Tim Ward, Frances Ward, Nic Wilson

**Members of Staff**

Natasha Aidinyantz, Lise Ashton, Laura Baker, Debbie Bigg, Matt Butters, Ian Carle, Charlotte Caro, Heidi Carruthers, Sally Clark, Helen Commandeur, Charlie Cooke, Alan Cotterell, Sarah Croft, Anna Daniels, Matt Dodds, Kathryn Dunnett, Lea Ellis, Rose Gibson, Frances Grant, Petra Green, Marianne Lodge, Beth Palmer, Ellie Smith, Dan Townsend, Justin Tyas

## WELCOME

The Chief Executive welcomed members to the AGM, and delivered the health and safety, and administrative rules.

The Chief Executive expressed the Trust's sadness at the death of Her Majesty the Queen. This was followed by a 1 minute's silence in recognition of the magnitude of this event and the national period of mourning.

## INTRODUCTION

The Chairman, Mike Master, introduced himself, and Chief Executive Lesley Davies, Vice Chairman Ronni Edmonds-Brown (absent) and Head of Business Support Becky Vernon-Clinch, who took the Minutes.

It was noted throughout that 7 proxy votes had been received in advance of the AGM.

<b>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
The Chairman asked whether any apologies for absence had been received. It was agreed that the list of the apologies would be included in the Minutes.	Agreed
<b>NOTICE OF MEETING</b> The Chairman asked that the Notice of Meeting be taken as read.	Agreed
<b>2. MINUTES OF THE 57<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE TRUST HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021</b>	
The Minutes were available from the Trust's head office and on the Trust's website in advance of the meeting, and some copies were available at the meeting.  The Chairman asked if these were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.  <b><i>Proposed: Humphrey Norrington, seconded Ken Golding and the correct record of minutes were unopposed.</i></b>  The Minutes were signed and dated by the Chairman.	Resolution carried
<b>3. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</b>	
There were no matters arising from the Minutes.	Agreed
<b>4. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL</b>	
The Chairman informed the meeting that <b>Sarah Kohl</b> was retiring this year. He offered his thanks on behalf of the Trust for all her work.  The Chairman informed the meeting that <b>Jackie Hunter</b> was standing for re-election for a third term.  The Chairman informed the meeting that <b>Kathryn Mackenzie and Peter Tallantire</b> were retiring by rotation in accordance with the Articles of Association, and standing for re-election.  <b><i>Proposed: Peter Delaloye, seconded Sarah Kohl, and it was unopposed that the above should be re-elected as Members of Council.</i></b>	Resolution carried

<b>5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS</b>	
<p>a) The Chairman informed the meeting that <b>Veronica Edmonds-Brown</b> was willing to be re-elected as Vice Chairman of the Trust for a further year.</p> <p><b>Proposed: Kathryn Mackenzie, seconded Stuart Warrington, and it was unopposed that Veronica Edmonds-Brown continue as Vice-Chairman.</b></p>	Resolution carried
<p>b) The Chairman informed the meeting that <b>Clive Hinds</b> was willing to be re-elected as Treasurer of the Trust for a further year.</p> <p><b>Proposed: Mike Master, seconded Keith Cotton, and it was unopposed that Clive Hinds continue as Treasurer.</b></p>	Resolution carried
<p>c) The Chairman informed the meeting that <b>Sir Simon Bowes-Lyon</b> was willing to continue as President of the Trust for a further year.</p> <p><b>Proposed: Mike Master, seconded Keith Cotton, and it was unopposed that Sir Simon Bowes-Lyon continue as President.</b></p>	Resolution carried
<p>d) The Chairman informed the meeting that <b>Robert Wilson</b> was willing to continue as Vice President of the Trust for a further year.</p> <p><b>Proposed: Kathryn Mackenzie, seconded Steve Shaw, and it was unopposed that Robert Wilson continue as Vice President.</b></p>	Resolution carried
<p>e) The Chief Executive informed the meeting that <b>Mike Master</b> was willing to be re-elected as Chairman of the Trust for a further year.</p> <p><b>Proposed: Ken Golding, seconded Clive Hinds, and it was unopposed that Mike Master continue as Chairman.</b></p>	Resolution carried
<b>6. THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS</b>	
<p>The Chief Executive paid tribute to two long term supporters of the Trust; Nigel Agar who was volunteer warden at Hexton Chalk Pit, and Roy Thornley who volunteered for the membership team in the office. The Chief Executive also reported on the recent death of Nila James who worked at the Trust three years ago providing maternity cover as Fundraising Manager.</p> <p>The Chief Executive gave thanks to all those who choose to remember the Trust in their will and those who have made donations in memory of loved ones.</p>	
<b>7. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE OF THE AGM</b>	
<p>We received one question from Ken Golding in advance of the AGM. The Chief Executive provided a response.</p> <p>“Why is Apple Day at Tewin not being held this year? Presumably this also means that much of the organically grown fruit will also be wasted. Is it proposed to hold this event next year, or has it now been ditched and if so, why?”.</p> <p>Response from the Trust: For the past two years, we have put the delivery of Apple Day on hold due to a combination of Covid-19 event restrictions and the need for the Trust to focus its resourced on managing the impacts of the pandemic. This year, the two staff responsible for leading the organisation of the event in recent years moved on from the Trust at the time we would have needed to complete critical event planning.</p>	

It would therefore not have been practical for us to go ahead this year. Now that we have replacement staff in post, we will be reviewing all of our events programme for 2023, including Apple Day, and looking at matters such as practical logistics and how events can best deliver our aims. Regarding the use of the fruit, we have taken the same approach as last year and organized apple picking days. The fruit is then sent away for juicing and sold to local outlets.

#### **8. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 2021/2022**

The Annual Review was available from the Trust's head office and on the Trust's website in advance of the meeting, and some copies were available at the meeting.

The Chief Executive outlined the key achievements of the year ended March 2022. This featured the work on the Trust's nature reserves for wildlife and people and highlighted species changes which are being seen such as increasing numbers and new species of dragonflies and damselflies. The Chief Executive spoke about the Trust's new nature reserves at Beane Marsh and Astonbury Wood, and mentioned the issues of ash dieback disease and avian flu. Projects at Hilfield Park Reservoir, Kings Meads and Panshanger Park were highlighted along Wilder St Albans and the Water Vole release on the river Ver. The Chief Executive spoke about the Trust's work with farmers and the importance this plays with nature's recovery at a landscape scale. The importance of the Herts Environmental Records Centre was highlighted as was the planning and advocacy work of the Trust to stand up for wildlife. The Chief Executive concluded by thanking the Trust's volunteers, staff and members.

Keith Cotton extended his thanks to the Chief Executive, and this was followed by applause.

The Chairman asked for a proposer and seconder for the resolution that the Annual Review be accepted.

***Proposed: Clive Hinds, seconded Jackie Hunter and the Annual Review was unopposed.***

Resolution carried

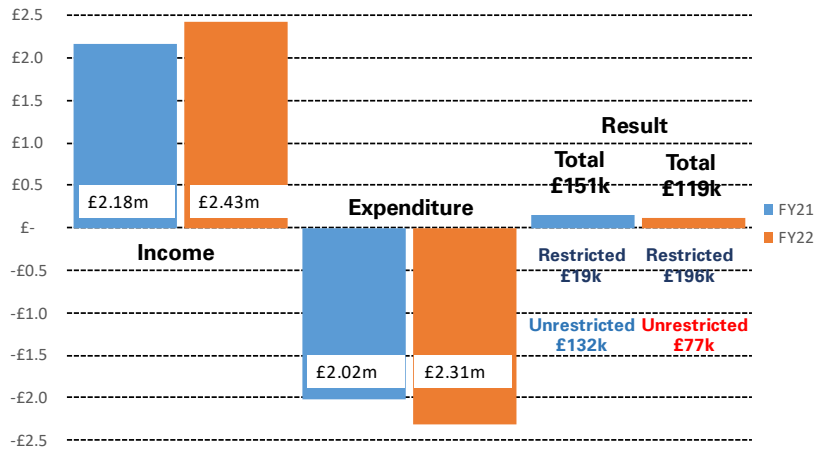
#### **9. TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2022**

The Treasurer presented the audited accounts.

Copies of the full financial statements were available from the Trust's head office and on the Trust's website in advance of the meeting, and some copies were available at the meeting.

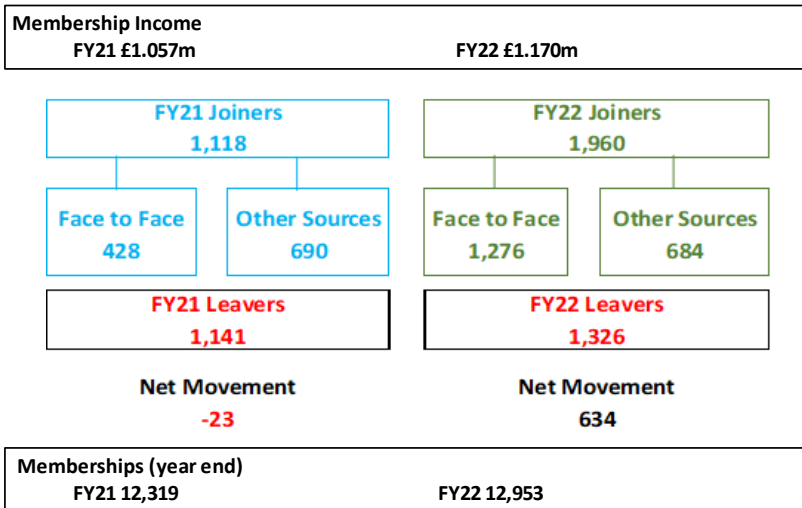
In making the presentation, the Treasurer explained the charts in the powerpoint presentation:

# 1. FY22 Overall result

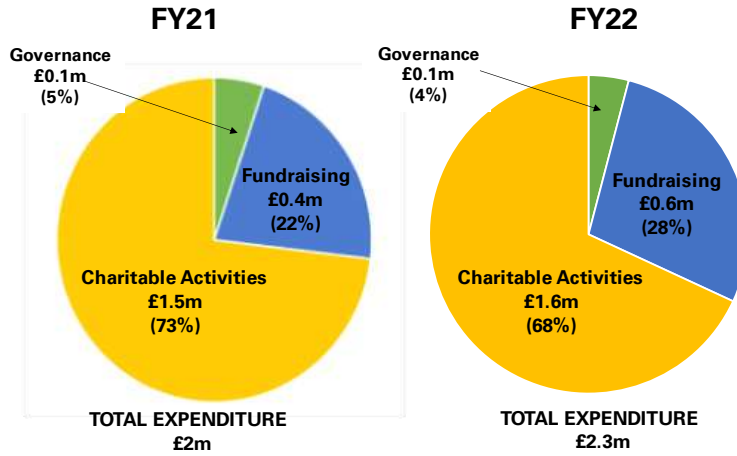


\* NB Results exclude losses/gains on investment

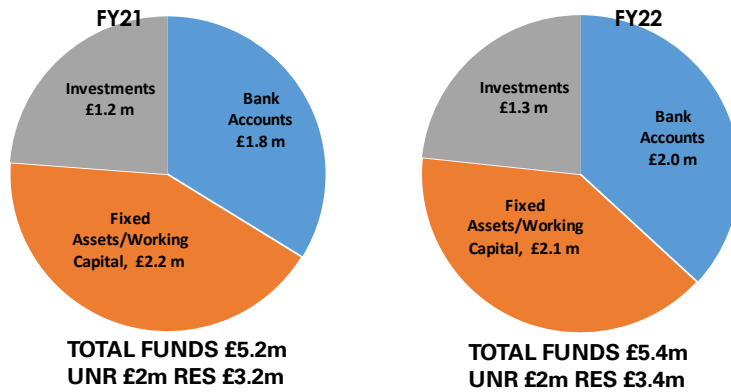
# 2. FY22 Membership recruitment



### 3. FY22 Expenditure analysis



### 4. FY22 Financial position



The Chairman invited the adoption of the audited accounts.

***Proposed: Ken Golding, seconded Louise Turner and the resolution to adopt the audited accounts was unopposed.***

Resolution carried

### 10. TO CONFIRM THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF MERCER AND HOLE AS AUDITORS AND TO AUTHORISE COUNCIL TO AGREE THEIR REMUNERATION

Members were invited to confirm the re-appointment of Mercer and Hole as auditors for the 2022/2023 financial year and authorise Council to agree their remuneration.

<p><b><i>Proposed: Laura Horton, seconded Steve Shaw and the resolution to confirm the re-appointment of Mercer and Hole as auditors for the 2022/2023 financial year was unopposed.</i></b></p>	<p>Resolution carried</p>
<p><b>11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p>	
<p>The Chief Executive shared exciting news regarding the purchase of Archers Green in Tewin and that the sale had completed in the last week.</p> <p>The Chief Executive spoke about the importance of the land as it has wildflower meadows and one of the best stretches of chalk river in our area. Archers Green in Tewin, at 20 acres has a complex of wildflower meadows, wet grassland and woodland, with the River Mimram flowing through its heart. It's this mix of habitats that makes it so special. The Chief Executive explained that the land is home to bats, Grass Snake, Water Vole and otter and three red-listed water beetles. The land is home to a wide variety of birds from Yellowhammer, Redwing, Grey Partridge and Skylark to Cuckoo, Marsh Tit, Water Rail and Snipe. The meadows include rare plants such as Whorl-grass, Marsh Valerian, Harebell and Marsh Ragwort.</p> <p>The Chief Executive explained that the Mimram Valley is a priority area for conservation and the reserve is connected to other sites of importance for wildlife, adjacent to Panshanger Park and just one mile from the Trust's Tewinbury Nature Reserve. These three sites are linked by the river Mimram. The Trust will be introducing conservation management, including livestock grazing, in order to increase the diversity of the flora and fauna. Volunteers for the Trust will help look after the site as well as record its wildlife, so that over time we can see how it changes. We will be organising guided walks so that our members and the public can see its wildlife up close.</p> <p>The Chief Executive outlined the special arrangement for this purchase, supported through a new national scheme set up by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts. We are very grateful to two very generous philanthropists have lent the Trust the funds to purchase the site. We will therefore be applying for grant aid and will be launching an ambitious appeal to raise £500,000 to cover the costs of purchase, improvements and ongoing management. The appeal will launch in the next couple of weeks.</p> <p>The Chairman closed the formal AGM.</p>	

The formal AGM was followed by a presentation by Sarah Perry, River Catchment Coordinator at the Trust, about 10 years of Living Rivers.

The Chairman concluded by thanking all for coming, thanking staff, volunteers, Members of Council, and the Trust's members and supporters, particularly all those present at the meeting. Information about the afternoon's activities was given and the Chairman invited everyone to stay on and enjoy the lunch.