
Minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting of the Devon Wildlife Trust, held at Seaton Town Hall, Fore Street, Seaton EX12 2LD on Saturday 12 November 2016 at 10.30am

The Chair was taken by the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Andrew Cooper. 204 members were present (the highest attendance in DWT's 54 year history). The Chair paid tribute to the Trust's President of 30 years, Prof Ian Mercer CBE, who had passed away on 19 September after a long illness. A silence was observed in his memory.

1. Apologies for absence

Gillian Beardsworth, Gill Bridson, Wendy and Vernon Clarke, Deborah Elton, Alison Clish-Green, Audrey Compton, Charles and Avril Dixon, Doug Herdson, Christopher and Elizabeth Hill, Dawn Laver, Mrs Lawrence-King, Matt Loble, Dennis and Mollie Martin, George Seager-Berry, Bill and Anne Sheppard, Elaine Underhill, Dick Waite and John Whetman.

2. Minutes of the 2015 AGM held on 3 October

The minutes were approved and signed.

3. Trustees' Annual Report

The Chair reminded members that the Trustees' Annual Report, which was a legal requirement, was contained within the full accounts, on pages 1-17. He presented an overview of the range of Devon Wildlife Trust's activities during 2015-16. The Chair proposed that the Trustees' Annual Report be adopted. Barry Henwood seconded the proposal and all being in favour, the Report was duly adopted.

4. Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 and the Auditors' Report

The Hon Treasurer, Richard Clack, was pleased to report that it had been a good year. He thanked members and supporters for raising almost a million pounds. The Director of Corporate and Commercial Services, Graham Kirk, presented some key points - income had totalled just over £3.9 million and expenditure £3.7 million. Current assets totalled £7,290,000, an increase on the previous year (£7,156,000). Unrestricted net assets had increased for the fifth consecutive year.

The Hon Treasurer proposed that the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 be adopted. Tony Jackson seconded the proposal and it was unanimously approved. The Report of the Auditors to the Members was printed on pages 18-19 of the Accounts. The 'Opinion on Financial Statements' confirmed that the Accounts gave a true and fair view of the organisation.

5. Election of Board members

The Board nominated Mr RJ Clack, Mr FV Clarke, Dr P Foxall, Ms S Goodfellow and Mr TJ Smale for re-election. The Chair called for a proposer, seconder and vote for each in turn by show of hands. Tony Jackson proposed that Mr RJ Clack be re-elected, seconded by Claire Edey, all were in favour. Mike Moser proposed that Mr FV Clarke be re-elected, seconded by Veronica Laurie, all were in favour. Michael Jennings proposed that Dr P Foxall be re-elected, seconded by Trevor Smale, all were in favour. Geoff Hearnden proposed that Ms S Goodfellow be re-elected, seconded by Nigel Rendle, all were in favour. Claire Edey proposed that Mr TJ Smale be re-elected, seconded by Jeanne Cooper, all were in favour.

6. Appointment of the Auditors

The Chair proposed the re-appointment of Francis Clark and that the Board be authorised to decide their remuneration. The proposal was unanimously approved.

The Chair closed the formal meeting at 11.08am. It was followed by an Open Forum.