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**Annual General Meeting 2018 Draft Minutes**

**Saturday 14th October 2018 at 11:30 AM at the Potteric Carr Education Centre on Mallard Way, Doncaster.**

85 members attended the AGM.

The Chair of the Board of Trustees, David Counsell, led the proceedings and chaired the AGM.

**Agenda**

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies have been received from Louise Farnell, Gurdev Singh and Christine Packer.

**Minutes of previous AGM** *held on 14 October 2017.*

The draft minutes of the 2017 AGM had been published on the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust website in advance of this meeting and printed copies were provided at the AGM.

As no questions were raised or amendments requested, Martin Randle proposed and Jo Webb seconded the acceptance of the minutes as a true record of the 2017 AGM, and the motion was carried.

1. **Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017**

Richard Tripp, Honorary Secretary, presented the Annual Report of the Trustees, giving several highlights of the year:

* Restoring Peatlands which is one of the great carbon stores.
* EA flood management scheme
* Richard informed members that there were 632 events with 15,000 people engaged and 650 volunteers all helping with increasing positive mental health and wellbeing.
* The nature tourism team has helped with agricultural farming which has enhanced wildlife.
* At the living seas completing beach cleans, fishing 4 litter which supports young fishermen understand issues associated with litter, has improved waste and is reducing pollution.

Finally Richard noted that the coming year is looking positive with more reserves, projects and flood management underway.

Hugh Williamson (Treasurer) then presented a summary of the Trusts’ financial performance in 2017/18.

Our income for the year was £6.95 million, up on last year’s £5.8 million. Expenditure (including capex), was £6.92m, giving a small surplus of £38k and our financial reserve stands at £0.9m against a ‘target’ of £0.7m.

Hugh highlighted Spurn Visitor Centre, car park and landscaping costing £1.25m which opened in the past year with the help of E.ON and Coastal Communities Funds as well as highlighting the Ashes Pasture Appeal which raised approximately £0.2m from public appeal, Banister Charitable Trust, Heritage Lotter Fund and Garfield Weston and with the help of the Esmée Fairbairn loan to secure and given the Trust 2 years to purchase the land.

Hugh also drew the member’s attention to the improvements the Trust has made to access and being greener including using recycled plastic for the board walk replacement at Upper Dunsforth, using potato starch magazine wrap and the Trust now 100% green energy. Hugh went on to note the Trust’s vital funders over the year including People’s Postcode Lottery and Esmée Fairburn.

Hugh pointed out a few continuing ‘headwinds’ including Brexit uncertainty and increased competition for funds from grant providers, but regardless the Trust has an optimistic future for 18/19 as grants and contracts were on an upturn and there is a new directorate in place Fundraising and Engagement, there’s an ambitious unrestricted funding strategy and lastly the opening of new land at Kilnsea Wetlands and Manor Farm on the edge of Potteric Carr in Spring 2019.

1. **Appointment of Auditors**

The resolution to reappoint Saffery Champness as the Trust’s auditors was proposed by Andy Mendus, seconded by Hugh Williamson and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

1. **Retiring and Election of Trustees**

David Counsell reported that trustee Andy Mendus steps down this year after being involved with the Trust since 2010 playing an essential role in supporting the management and finance of the Trust.

John MacArthur and Bob Missin had stepped down in the past year. Rob Stoneman and David Counsell both thanked all of the retiring trustees.

The Trust received five nominations for re-election of Board members including trustees Hugh Williamson, Christine Packer, Louise Farnell, Joanna Royle and David Counsell.

The re-election of Board members were unanimously approved, reducing the Board’s size to the proposed 12 members.

As the formal business of the AGM was complete, the meeting closed at 11.55.