



Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Annual General Meeting 2019 Draft Minutes

Sunday 20 October 2019 at 12.00pm at the Mercure Parkway Hotel, Otley Road, Leeds, LS16 8AG

143 members attended the AGM and Annual Members Day.

The Chair of the Board of Trustees, Professor Mike Cooke CBE, led the proceedings and chaired the AGM that took place on the Annual Members Day.

Agenda

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Gurdev Singh, John S. Armitage, Henry Robert, Karen Nicklin and Rosie Pearson.

2. Minutes of previous AGM

The draft minutes of the previous AGM - held at the Potteric Carr Nature Reserve, Doncaster, on Saturday the 14 October 2018 - had been published on the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust website in advance of this meeting and printed copies were made available to all attendees in the foyer.

As no questions were raised or amendments requested, Hugh Williamson proposed and Richard Tripp seconded the acceptance of the minutes as a true record of the 2018 AGM, and the motion was carried.

3. Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2019

Caroline Thorogood (Director of Operations, South and West) took a look back on 2018/19 and shared impacts and highlights, including:

- Restoring huge areas of upland peatland and thus improving habitats for wildlife, storing carbon and combatting climate change
- Driving growth in footfall at our Potteric Carr Nature Reserve and Kilnsea Wetlands
- Working on every river catchment in Yorkshire and driving the restoration of Barmby Marsh, which is a significant site for wildlife such as hare and barn owl
- Securing a brilliant response from our supporters when asked to urge their MPs to support a strong Environment Bill which has led a commitment being made to include targets, a watchdog and a nature recovery network and plan
- Seeing Tomorrow's Natural Leaders reach its fourth year. 81% of TNL's have successfully entered employment after completing the scheme, with 67% of those going into the environmental sector

- Removing 9,455 items of rubbish from Yorkshire's beaches thanks to the Waves of Waste beach cleans run by the Living Seas team
- Welcoming 50,000 visitors to Spurn Discovery Centre had 50000 in its first year of opening

There were no questions asked regarding the Annual Report.

4. Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019

Peter Batchelor (Director of Finance and Central Services) presented a summary of the Trust's financial performance in 2018/19. Key points included:

- The Trust has generated income of almost £9.5 million for the year 18/19 which is up from £6.9m in the previous year. Peter went through income strands such as contracts and restricted grants for delivery of work which was the predominant income stream in 18/19. PB noted that diversifying income streams and growing income from supporters is fundamental to the Trust's future.
- Over the year the Trust spent £8.2m. Peter went through examples of expenditure and highlighted the £2.65m on Peatlands working in partnership with Defra, Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency (EA). The Trust spent just over £1m managing its nature reserves with £0.6m income received through land subsidies and contract management. The Trust spent £0.33m on the Living Seas Programme and the Trust increased expenditure for wider engagement activities from £ 1.3m in 17/18 to £1.5m in 18/19.
- Peter went through the financial reserves and noted that the Trust had Net Assets of over £12m largely made up of fixed asset funds. Peter noted that, looking forward, the Trust is anticipating £8m income in 19/20 with a breakeven budget, but noted uncertainties including the impact of Brexit. Peter thanked Hugh and the members of the Finance & Risk Committee who oversee the Trusts finances. He then thanked Members for their ongoing support.

No questions were raised relating to the Accounts. Christine Packer proposed and Martin Randle seconded the acceptance of the Annual Report and Accounts as an accurate record of 18/19, the motion was carried.

5. Appointment of Auditors

A proposal to reappoint Saffery Champness as the Trust's auditors was made by Hugh Williamson, seconded by Louise Farnell and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

6. Retiring and Election of Trustees

Mike Cooke reported that the Nominations Committee had received and approved two nominations for election; serving trustees Richard Tripp and Patrick Hall. The re-election of these two Board members was unanimously approved and Mike Cooke welcomed them back on to the Board. Mike Cooke invited any Members interested in joining the Board to speak to either himself or a current member of the Board.

7. Date of the next AGM & Closing Remarks

Mike Cooke announced that the date of the next Yorkshire Wildlife Trust AGM will be Saturday 3rd October 2020.

Mike Cooke thanked Members for attending the AGM and as the formal business of the AGM was complete, the meeting closed at 12.30 pm.