**Shropshire Wildlife Trust**

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

**held on Saturday 20th October 2018**

**at Alderford Lakes, Whitchurch**

The Chairman, Kirsten Mould, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced herself the Hon. Secretary Roger Owen, Hon Treasurer, Alan Salt and PA to the CEO,

Heather Bennett.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mervyn Evans, Adrian Platt, Jon King, Kate Mayne, Mr and Mrs Pead, Sylvia and Phillip Pledger, Andrew Jenkinson, William Morris, Jacqui Seymour, Bridget Matthews, Mary Singleton, Pat Pledger, Jean Bell, Mr Kenyon-Slaney, Howard Thorne.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

It was proposed by Malcolm Monie and seconded by Katie Foster, that the minutes of the AGM held on 20 October 2018, at Shropshire Wildlife Trust be approved. Carried unanimously.

**3. Report of Council of Management 2018/19**

The Trust’s Hon. Secretary, Roger Owen, presented the Report of the Council of Management to members, highlighting the following:

The Trust, following one from last financial year, had seen strong growth during 2018/19 and increased turnover by just over £1m. Some of the main highlights of the year were:

* Membership numbers remain strong
* Partnership working with Natural England and Natural Resources Wales saw the completion of the scrapyard clearance and continued peatland restoration focus
* Rivers and water quality improvement work in partnership with Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency
* Work with around 350 farmers contacted forging links with the agricultural community and again working in partnership to improve water quality
* Engaging with business through our corporate partnerships and Marches Nature Partnerships lead by our CEO and Trustee, Adrian Platt
* Our advocacy work with developers and planners has grown and management of greenspaces around Redwing Fields, in conjunction with Shropshire Homes has commenced.
* 10,000 were engaged through the Trust’s programme of school and work with young children and families.
* Social Media continues to be a very big part of our communications strategy with 32,000 hits and around 15,000 hits on the Trust’s website.

The Trust’s membership were thanked for their continued support, and equally over 600 regular volunteers gave 33,000 hours of their time and skills to the Trust, assisting on our nature reserves, at our HQ, and at the many events over the year. Thanks were also recorded to our partners and staff.

It was proposed by Paul Bell and seconded by Jerry Thomas that the Report of the Council of Management 2018/19 be accepted. All in favour.

**4. Treasurer’s Report – Annual Accounts 2018/19**

The Treasurer, Alan Salt, presented the Annual Accounts to members who were advised that the published figures were the consolidated accounts of the Trading Company (first year) and Charity income.

Over the last financial year income rose by £1.1m to £3.3m with expenditure of £3.1m. There was a surplus of income over expenditure of £130k compared with £36k last financial year. This surplus aids cash-flow as activity increases and larger projects are taken on by the Charity.

Cash in hand for the financial year is £567k compared with £267k last year.

Net assets for the year were £2.88m compared with £2.67m last year

Turnover for current year is likely to be broadly equivalent to 2018/19. Overall the Trust’s finances are very satisfactory.

Dave Green raised a query as to why income had increased this year by over £1m?

This was due mainly to larger grants, new, longer running projects and overall increased activity, including the BogLIFE programme.

Thanks were recorded to the Trust’s financial team and staff who had contributed to the management of finances over the last year.

No further questions were raised and the report was approved on the proposal of Katie Foster and seconded by Richard Carpenter. All in favour.

**5. Nominations for Election to Council**

At today’s AGM three members of Council retire by rotation:-

Howard Thorne, standing down after two, four year terms on Council was thanked for his considerable contribution, including sitting on Finance Committee and leading on the Trust’s work with planners and developers.

Richard Carpenter has been nominated for re-election and has agreed to re-stand taking a role in assisting with corporate and constitutional matters.

Jon King also stands down after a four year term and Jenny Joy had elected to stand down. They were thanked for their support and efforts on Council.

Veronica Cossons stands for election for a four year term, after being co-opted to Council 24 Oct 2018.

Newly proposed Trustees are Anne Wignall and Andrew Hearle. The Chair gave a brief overview of their CVs which had been published on the Trust’s website along with the AGM Notice.

It was proposed by Paul Bell and seconded by Joan Daniells that the above named be elected to Council. All in favour.

Anne and Andrew were thanked for joining Trust Council.

**6. Appointment of Auditors**

Whittingham Riddell LLP were re-appointed as auditor for the financial year ending

31 March 2020.

Proposed by Katie Foster, seconded by Brian Hogbin. All in favour.

**7. Any Other Business**

**DECLARATION ON THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND THE BIODIVERSITY CRISIS**

(proposed by John Box)

The motion appended to these minutes was debated with several points and questions raised by members.

A question was raised regarding whether the Trust’s investments were lodged with companies concerned with fossil fuels.

David Jameson, the Trust’s pension adviser provided some information that several years ago when the Trust switched to Royal London, 98% of their executive brokers were deemed sustainable.

Charles Green raised a question regarding the Trust’s own emissions.

Brian Hogbin asked that these matters were put back to trustees to report to next year’s AGM and members forum.

The six initial actions proposed by the AGM were agreed with one abstention. In pursuing these the comments made above, and those of others at the meeting they will be taken into account over the next few months as the Trust moves forward with them.

The Chair closed the meeting at 11.15am.

The AGM was followed by a Members’ Forum