

**Unconfirmed Minutes of the 60th Annual General Meeting of the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust held at
2.15pm on 28th September 2024 at The Nobel School, Mobbsbury Way, Stevenage SG2 0HS**

PRESENT

Members of Council

Chair: Peter Tallantire
Vice Chair: Veronica Edmonds-Brown (stepping down)
Treasurer: Duncan Brown
Trustees: Lisa Clavering, Laura Horton, Kathryn Mackenzie, Alex Michaels (co-opted), Simon Turnbull (co-opted), Louise Turner, Stephanie Woods

Members

Derek Angell, Jacqueline Angell, Kate Aylett, Tanja Brückmann-Rath, Agneta Burton, Chris Carter, Sylvia Cook, John Davis, Martin Dodd, Niles Dodhia, Martin Finney, Stephen Freeman, Ken Golding, Michele Griffiths, Sue Harrison, Wendy Hartnell, Jennifer Hopping, Malcolm Edward Hull, Anna Husband, Bob Husband, Ian Jackson, Lorraine Kirk, Paul Knutson, Sarah Kohl, Graham Lewis, John Mitchell, Janet Mitchell, Alison Monckton, Janice Neal, David Neal, Tove Nisson Huntley, Anthony Oliver, Glenys Parry, Robert Phillips, Marcella Randall, Marian Rastelli, James Ridings, Claire Robinson, David Seabrook, Rose Seabrook, Mark Seymour, Janet Southwood, Helen Stamp, Emily Staveley Taylor, Gerry Steyaert, Tim Vaughan, Michael Velasco, Catherine Walker, Mark Wall, Stuart Warrington, Chris Weeresinghe, Andy Wells, Peter Wilkinson, Ingrid Williams, Jean Williamson.

Members of Staff

Chief Executive: Lesley Davies

Lise Ashton, Chloe Edwards, Lea Ellis, Josh Kalms, Emma Norrington, Niamh O'Reilly, Sarah Perry, Sarah Priestley, Rachel Rogers, Becky Vernon-Clinch, Michael Wood.

APOLOGIES

Members of Council

Trustees: Olivia Bertham (stepping down), Lisa Foster, Jackie Hunter, Patrick Schneiders

Officers

President: Sir Simon Bowes-Lyon
Vice-President: Robert Wilson, Mike Master

Members

Colin Adlam, Susan Allenby, David Bundy, Jennifer Davies, Loyd Davies, Varsha Dodhia, Ann Finney, Bety Fox, Joyal George, Susan Gillett, Deirdre Heydecker, Jan Kitchin, Sarah Lucken, Ken Moody, Geoffrey Moore, Sue Featherstone, Chris Oak, Valerie Schicker, Dianne Scott, Steve Shaw, Neil Shepherd, Michael Stewart, Wilfred Stokes, Carol Stokes

Members of Staff

Laura Baker, Keith Ballentine, Jo Bayford, Debbie Bigg, Tirzah Bottomley, Alice Bradley, Vicki Burns, Ian Carle, Charlotte Caro, Charlie Cooke, Helen Commandeur, Anna Daniels, Kathryn Dunnett, Adam Fuller, Rose Gibson, Petra Green, Chloé Harmsworth, Samuel Henderson, Tim Hill, Marianne Lodge, Hannah Lye, Heidi

Mansell, Simon Marsh, Jess Pinches, Sarah Rutherford, Ellie Smith, Nicola Thompson, Dan Townsend, Justin Tyas, Alex Waechter, Iain Ward.

WELCOME

The Chair, Peter Tallantire, welcomed members to the AGM, and covered health and safety, and administrative points. It was acknowledged that the temperature in the hall was cool, and apologies were made for this.

INTRODUCTION

The Chair introduced themselves, Chief Executive Lesley Davies, and Head of Business Support Becky Vernon-Clinch, who took the Minutes.

It was noted that 6 proxy votes had been received in advance of the AGM.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
The Chair asked whether any apologies for absence had been received. It was agreed that the list of the apologies would be included in the Minutes. The Chair noted that Olivia Bertham, who is stepping down from the Board, was unable to attend the AGM.	Agreed
NOTICE OF MEETING The Chair asked that the Notice of Meeting be taken as read.	Agreed
2. MINUTES OF THE 59 th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE TRUST HELD ON 30 th SEPTEMBER 2023	
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 Chair asked if these were agreed as a correct record of the meeting. <i>Proposed: Stephanie Woods, seconded Anthony Oliver. The resolution was unopposed.</i> The Minutes were signed and dated by the Chair.	Resolution carried
3. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES	
There were no matters arising from the Minutes. A member raised a question around the outstanding legacy mentioned in the minutes. The Chair explained that we have received part of the payment, but the process is complex with a number of properties involved. Part of the legacy is still outstanding.	Agreed
4. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 2023/2024	
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 during the year. The Chief Executive started by recognizing the special event in 2024 – the Trust's 60 th anniversary. They spoke about the Trust's aims of raising awareness, and covered the variety of projects to create more awareness of wildlife and the work of the Trust, as well as giving people the opportunity to become actively involved in making a difference for wildlife. They went on to	

talk about the Trust's nature reserves and improvements made over the year for wildlife and for people, as well as talking about our wider countryside work including projects on rivers, Water Voles, farmland advice. They spoke about the important role of the Trust in commenting on planning and infrastructure proposals to ensure full consideration of the ecological impact, and the value that the hosting of the Herts Environmental Records Centre brings. They highlighted the advocacy work, including engaging with local and national politicians. Thanks were made to the staff team and to all the supporters of the Trust, highlighting the importance of our members and volunteers. The Chief Executive rounded off by showcasing some of the species whose populations are recovering thanks to the work of the Trust and our partners.

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

Proposed: Sarah Kohl, seconded Kathryn Mackenzie. The Annual Review was accepted unopposed.

The Chair added his thanks to the staff team for all their hard work over the last year.

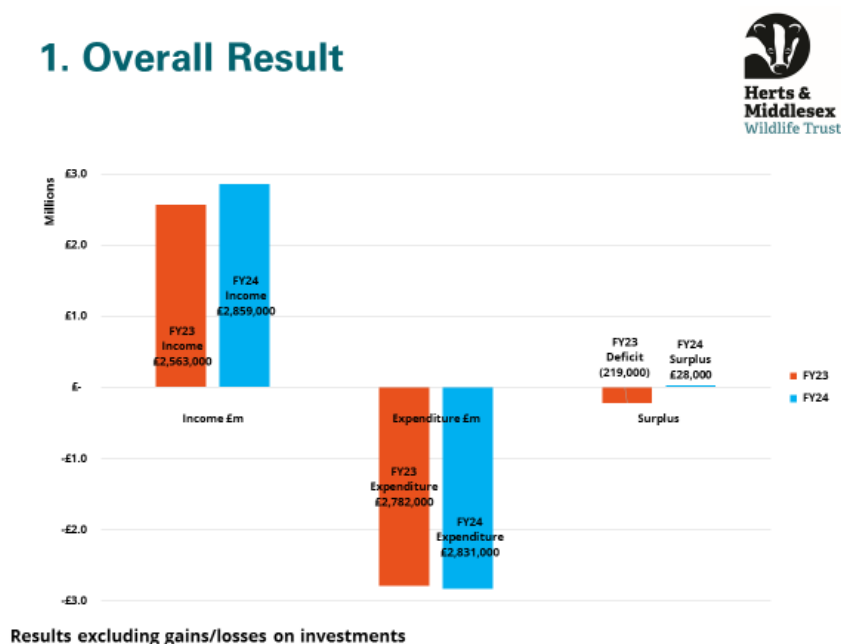
Resolution carried

5. TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

The Treasurer, Duncan Brown, 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:



The Treasurer outlined the difference between unrestricted and restricted funds, and reiterated the importance of unrestricted funding for back office functions.

2. Membership Numbers



	FY23	FY24
Membership Numbers		
Opening Memberships	12,953	12,908
Joiners	1,519	2,237
Leavers	(1,564)	(1,531)
Net Movement	(45)	706
Closing Memberships	12,908	13,614
Membership Income	£1,190,000	£1,252,000

The Treasurer highlighted that there has been a 5% increase in membership income.

3. Legacy Income



	FY23	FY24
Legacy Income	33,000	244,000
All Other Income	2,530,000	2,615,000
Total Income	2,563,000	2,859,000

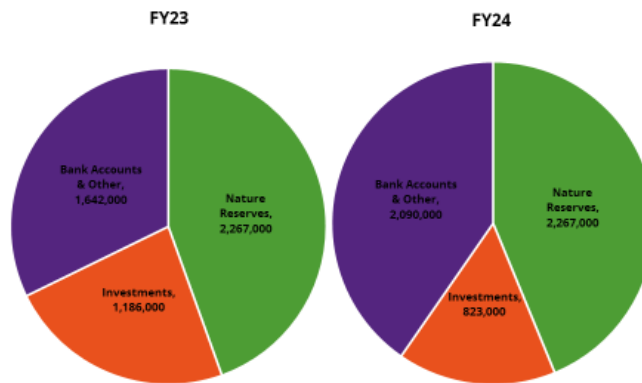


The Treasurer highlighted that the legacy income in FY24 amounted to 8% of the Trust's total income for that year, reiterating the importance of legacies. While all legacies were gratefully received, they were particularly valuable if they contributed to unrestricted funds.

4. Financial Position



**Herts &
Middlesex**
Wildlife Trust



TOTAL FUNDS £5,095,000

TOTAL FUNDS £5,180,000

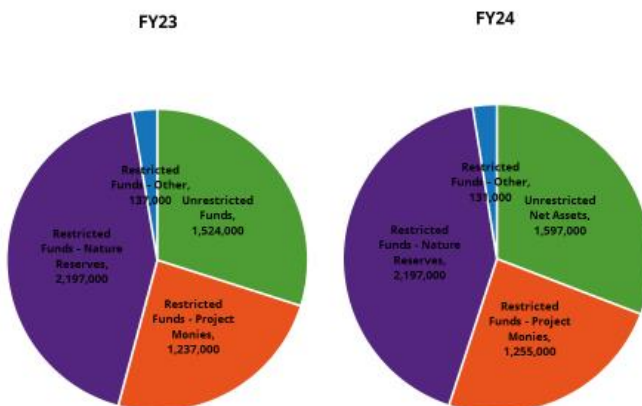
Creating a wilder Hertfordshire and Middlesex

The Treasurer wanted to clarify that the investment figures have reduced for FY24, not because they haven't performed well, but because the Trust had to withdraw some funds from investments and move into unrestricted funds.

5. Unrestricted Funds



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Wildlife Trust



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The Treasurer passed his thanks onto the Finance Team for their hard work over the last year.

The Chair invited the adoption of the audited accounts.

Proposed: Kenneth Golding, seconded Helen Stamp. The resolution was adopted unopposed.

A number of questions were asked following the presentation of the annual review and the accounts, which were responded to by the Chair.

Resolution
carried

<p>A member queried why the Trust are asking for £280,000 in the appeal if we are in a good financial position. The Chair and Treasurer reiterated that while the financial position has improved, we still require additional unrestricted funds to be able to cover staff costs, back office requirements and to fund much of the work the work on our nature reserves. We need to continue to generate new memberships, which contribute critically to our unrestricted funds, and highlighted the value of legacies to the Trust.</p> <p>A member asked why the Trust could not just increase membership costs. It was explained that the Trust had considered this, but given concerns around the cost of living we would expect to lose members and therefore income. The Trust decided it would be better to put out an appeal which members could choose to donate to as a one off, if they were able.</p>	
6. RETIREMENT, RE-ELECTION & ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL & COMPANY OFFICERS	
<p>a) The Chair informed the meeting that Veronica Edmonds-Brown and Olivia Bertham were retiring this year.</p> <p>b) The Chair informed the meeting that Laura Horton, Lisa Clavering and Louise Turner were standing for re-election for a second term.</p> <p><i>Proposed: Sarah Kohl, seconded Agneta Burton, and it was unopposed that the above should be re-elected as Members of Council.</i></p> <p>c) The Chair informed the meeting that Alex Michaels and Simon Turnbull were standing for election as Members of Council.</p> <p><i>Proposed: Duncan Brown, seconded Lisa Clavering, and it was unopposed that the above should be elected as Members of Council.</i></p> <p>d) The Chair informed the meeting that Duncan Brown was seeking to be re-elected as Treasurer for a further year.</p> <p><i>Proposed: Louise Turner, seconded Stephanie Woods, and it was unopposed that Duncan Brown be re-elected as Treasurer for a further year.</i></p> <p>e) The Chair informed the meeting that Sir Simon Bowes-Lyon, Robert Wilson and Mike Master were willing to continue as President and Vice-Presidents of the Trust respectively for a further year.</p> <p><i>Proposed: Anthony Oliver, seconded Veronica Edmonds-Brown, and it was unopposed that Sir Simon Bowes-Lyon continue as President and Robert Wilson and Mike Master continue as Vice-Presidents for a further year.</i></p> <p>f) The Chief Executive informed the meeting that Peter Tallantire was seeking to be re-elected as Chair for a further year.</p> <p><i>Proposed: Laura Horton, seconded Catherine Walker, and it was unopposed that Peter Tallantire be re-elected as Chair for a further year.</i></p>	<p>Resolution carried</p> <p>Resolution carried</p> <p>Resolution carried</p> <p>Resolution carried</p> <p>Resolution carried</p> <p>Resolution carried</p>
7. TO CONFIRM THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF MERCER AND HOLE AS AUDITORS AND TO AUTHORISE COUNCIL TO AGREE THEIR REMUNERATION	

<p>Members were invited to confirm the re-appointment of Mercer and Hole as auditors for the 2024/2025 financial year and authorise Council to agree their remuneration.</p> <p><i>Proposed: Duncan Brown, seconded Catherine Walker and the resolution to confirm the re-appointment of Mercer and Hole as auditors for the 2024/2025 financial year was unopposed.</i></p>	<p>Resolution carried</p>
<p>8. THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS</p>	
<p>The Chair took time to thank all our supporters, in particular our members and volunteers. The Chair explained that the Trust continue to spend more money than we receive from memberships, and we therefore relied on the continued support and generosity of our members and supporters, be it through financial help, volunteering time, or both.</p> <p>The Chair referred to significant financial donations which had enabled the Trust to carry out crucial access work at the Purwell Ninesprings reserve and purchase a new vehicle for the Reserves Team.</p> <p>The Chair gave particular thanks to office volunteer, Carol Newman, who is leaving her volunteer role having volunteered for the Trust since 2008. Carol has primarily helped with fundraising and membership administration in the office, and has also carried out Reception duties in the past. The Chair reiterated the vital work volunteers carried out for the Trust.</p>	
<p>9. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE OF THE AGM</p>	
<p>There were no questions submitted in advance of the AGM.</p>	
<p>10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p>	
<p>The Chair concluded by saying a special thank you to the two Trustees who had stepped down at the AGM, Veronica Edmonds-Brown and Olivia Bertham..</p> <p>The Chair explained that Veronica Edmonds-Brown joined as a Trustee in 2009 and has since been Chair of the Nature Recovery Committee and Vice-Chair of the Trust. We have benefitted greatly from Ronni's ecological knowledge, in particular her expertise in chalk rivers and invertebrates.</p> <p>Continuing, the Chair said that Olivia Bertham joined us as Trustee in 2015 and has since served on the Nature Recovery Committee and acted as an advisor to the Chief Executive on our Carbon Strategy and sustainability measures.</p> <p>The Chair took the opportunity to wish both individuals all the very best.</p>	

The Chair concluded the AGM 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.