

Unconfirmed Minutes of the 61st Annual General Meeting of the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust held at 2.30pm on 27th September 2025 at Katherine Warington School, Lower Luton Road, Harpenden, AL5 5FH

PRESENT

Members of Council

Chair: Peter Tallantire
Trustees: Laura Cashman (stepping down), Lisa Clavering, Jackie Hunter, Kathryn Mackenzie (stepping down), Kerry Rock (co-opted), Simon Turnbull, Stephanie Woods

Officers

Vice-President: Robert Wilson

Members

Colin Adlam, Kate Aylett, Tanja Brückmann-Rath, Agneta Burton, Robin Cole, Brian Combridge, Sylvia Cook, Stuart Gee, Ken Golding, Wendy Hartnell, Jan Kitchin, Sarah Kohl, Graham Lewis, Christopher Lumb, Gillian Lumb, Janet Mitchell, John Mitchell, Mike Petersen, Nicolas Pike, Sue Pike, Claire Robinson, Valerie Schicker-Hill, Terry Scudder, Mark Seymour, Janet Southwood, Helen Stamp, Peter Tatton, Paul Tenconi, Tanya Treyster, Nicholas Verlaine, Catherine Walker, Andrew Watt, Chris Weeresinghe, D'Arcy Welch

Non-Members

Evelyn De'roy, Peter Wilkinson

Members of Staff

Chief Executive: Laura Burrows

Matt Ashby, Jo Bayford, Debbie Bigg, Sarah Croft, Lea Ellis, Petra Green, Tim Hill, Hayley Lewis, Sarah Lucas, Hannah Lye, Fiona Mahon, Heidi Mansell, Emma Norrington, Sarah Perry, Rachel Rogers, Kate Sheard, Nicola Thompson, Becky Vernon-Clinch.

APOLOGIES

Members of Council

Treasurer: Duncan Brown
Trustees: Lisa Foster (stepping down), Hannah Law (co-opted), Cathy Myatt (co-opted), Patrick Schneiders, Louise Turner

Officers

President: Sir Simon Bowes-Lyon
Vice-President: Mike Master

Members

Christine Carter, Anita Collis, Birgit Dohrendorf, Veronica Edmonds-Brown, Sue Featherstone, Malcolm Hull, Elizabeth Hunter, Michael Leon, Katherine Manners, Victoria Mead, David Neal, Janice Neal, Alan Reimer, Jocelyn Roberts, Neil Roberts, Richard Robinson, Ata Sanal, Patrick Shirley, Alan Sparshott, Emily Staples, Anne Thomas, Jean Williamson

Members of Staff

Lise Ashton, Laura Baker, Keith Ballentine, Sophy Bristow, Vicki Burns, Ian Carle, Charlotte Caro, Freya Cook, Charlie Cooke, Helen Commandeur, Alan Cotterell, Anna Daniels, Kathryn Dunnett, Adam Fuller, Rose Gibson, Samuel Henderson, Josh Kalms, Marianne Lodge, Simon Marsh, Niamh O'Reilly, Jess Pinches, Callum Peel, Sarah Rutherford, Ellie Smith, Dan Townsend, Amy Trotter, Justin Tyas, Alex Waechter, Iain Ward

WELCOME

The Chair, Peter Tallantire, welcomed members to the AGM, and covered health and safety, and administrative points.

INTRODUCTION

The Chair introduced themselves, Chief Executive Laura Burrows, who was welcomed to the Trust having joined this year, 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.

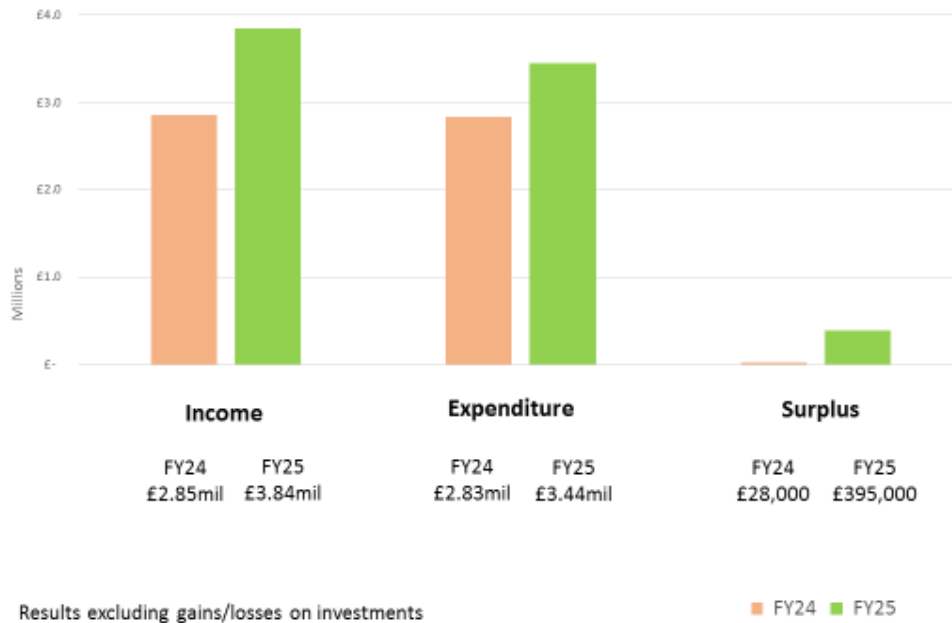
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
The Chair asked whether any apologies for absence had been received. It was agreed that the list of the apologies would be included in the Minutes. The Chair noted that Lisa Foster, who was stepping down from the Board, was unable to attend the AGM, as was Duncan Brown, the Treasurer, and therefore Peter Tallantire would be presenting the audited accounts.	Agreed
NOTICE OF MEETING The Chair asked that the Notice of Meeting be taken as read.	Agreed
2. MINUTES OF THE 60 th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE TRUST HELD ON 28 th SEPTEMBER 2024	
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 Ken Golding. 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.	Agreed
4. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 2024/2025	
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 gave a presentation on the key achievements during the year, this included:	

• Welcoming all, thanking staff, volunteers and supporters for contributing to the year • Thanking previous Chief Executive, Lesley Davies for previous leadership of the Trust • Sharing Trust's strategic goals: - GOAL 1: more land in Hertfordshire and Middlesex is managed and protected for nature - GOAL 2: more people are standing up for wildlife and taking action for nature's recovery - GOAL 3: nature as a solution, playing a central and valued role in helping to address climate issues and people's health and wellbeing • Highlighting work at Nature Reserves, thanking wardens, volunteers and staff • Highlighting the work of the ecological consultancy and advisory team working with landowners for nature recovery • New three-year project, funded by the Environment Agency, working with farm clusters to improve chalk stream habitats • 10 years of partnership at Panshanger in 2024, continuing to support with ecological advice • Launch of Species Survival Fund, from National Lottery Heritage Fund on behalf of Defra to support restoration of chalk rivers, and expansion of Wilder Communities programme • Rare flora and invertebrate species recorded across reserves • Water Vole reintroduction going well • Herts Environmental Records Centre, reached a milestone of 3.5 million species records • 653 active volunteers who have contributed just over 17,000 hours of activity to Trust programmes across all areas of Trusts work. • New three-year community programme launched in Watford funded by the National Lottery and Swire Charitable Trust • Wilder school programme launched • Standing up for Wildlife in 2024 election • Raising awareness through all media channels and magazine, local and national media • Staff team instrumental in helping develop Hertfordshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), working in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council and others • Thanking the Trust's 23,500 supporters: members, Wildlife Guardians, funders, and business partners • Thanking all volunteers and staff for their efforts through the year • Highlighting political, social, and environment shifts in last 5 years – wildlife under increasing threat – message: nature is not a nice to have, it's essential • Trust's continued role in championing nature together with supporters The Chair asked for a proposer and seconder for the resolution that the Annual Review be accepted. <i>Proposed: Simon Turnbull, seconded Jackie Hunter. The Annual Review was accepted unopposed.</i> 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 2025	
In the absence of Duncan Brown, Treasurer, the Chair presented the audited accounts.	

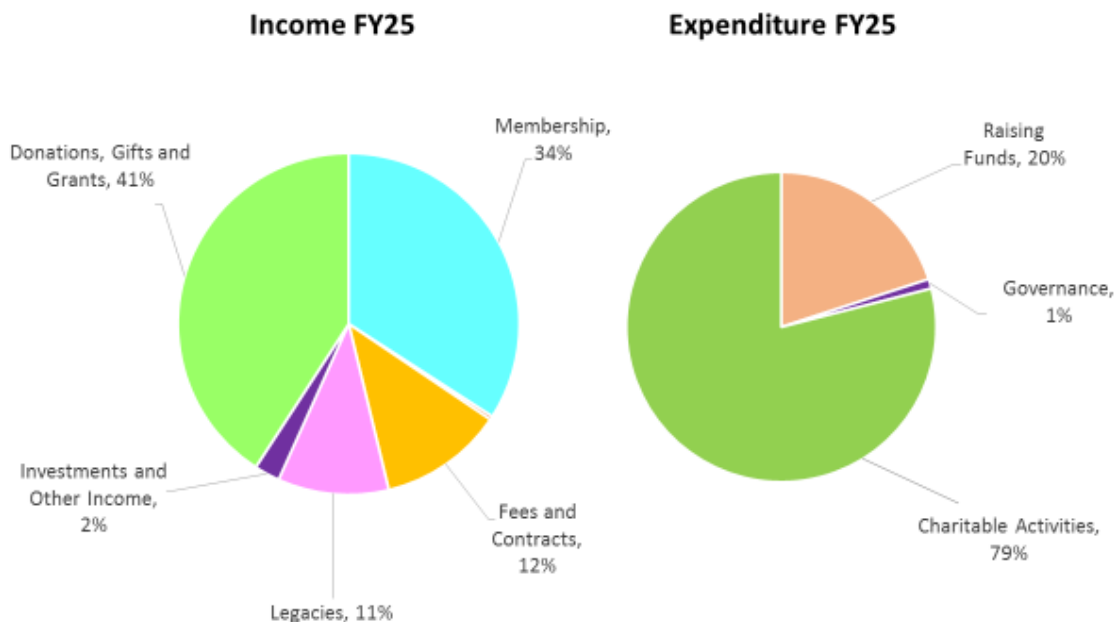
Copies of the full financial statements were available from the Trust's head office and on the Trust's website in advance of the meeting, and some copies were available at the meeting.

In making the presentation, the Chair explained the charts in the powerpoint presentation:

1. Overall Result



2. Income & Expenditure



3. Membership Numbers

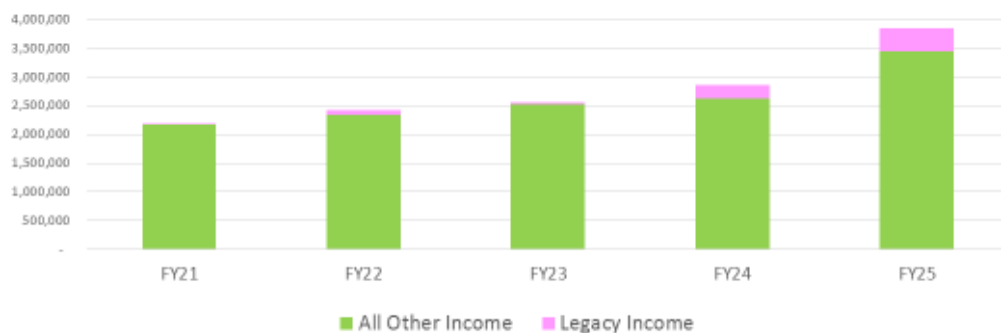


	FY24	FY25
Membership Numbers		
Opening Memberships	12,908	13,614
Joiners	2,237	1,569
Leavers	(1,531)	(1,591)
Net Movement	706	(11)
Closing Memberships	13,614	13,603
Membership Income	£1,252,000	£1,310,000

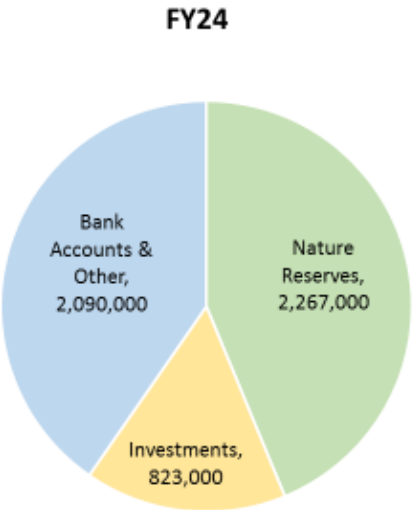
4. Legacy Income



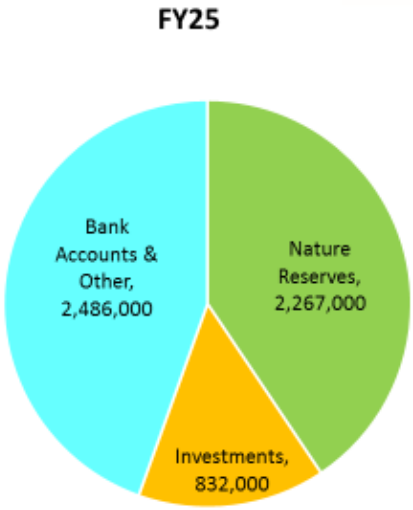
	FY24	FY25
Legacy Income	244,000	405,000
All Other Income	2,615,000	3,435,000
Total Income	2,859,000	3,840,000



5. Financial Position

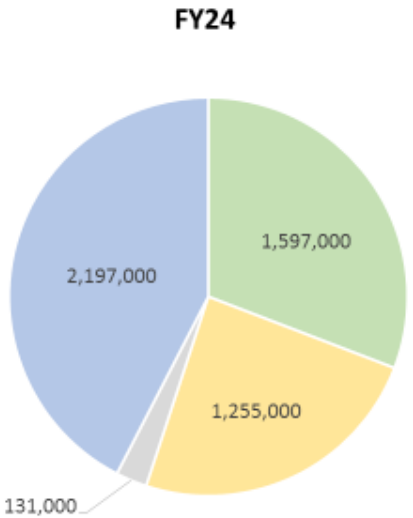


Total Funds £5,180,000

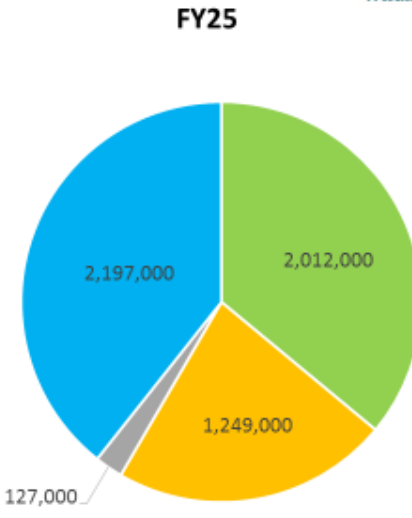


Total Funds £5,585,000

6. Fund Analysis



■ Unrestricted Funds
■ Restricted Funds - Other



■ Restricted Funds - Project Monies
■ Restricted Funds - Nature Reserves

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

The Chair invited the adoption of the audited accounts.

8. TO CONFIRM THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF MERCER AND HOLE AS AUDITORS AND TO AUTHORISE COUNCIL TO AGREE THEIR REMUNERATION	
Members were invited to confirm the re-appointment of Mercer and Hole as auditors for the 2025/2026 financial year and authorise Council to agree their remuneration. <i>Proposed: Kathryn Mackenzie, seconded Jackie Hunter and the resolution to confirm the re-appointment of Mercer and Hole as auditors for the 2025/2026 financial year was unopposed.</i>	Resolution carried
9. THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS	
The Chair took time to thank all the Trust's supporters, in particular our members and volunteers. The Chair gave special mention of John Rowley, the Trust's warden at Fir and Ponds who sadly passed away this year, and Ray Uffen, a keen naturalist, and the Herts county recorder for bees, wasps and sawflies for many years.	
10. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE OF THE AGM	
The Trust received one question in advance of the AGM, from Ken Golding, regarding the nature reserves disposals. The Chief Executive provided an update on the seven sites identified as part of the Trust's Nature Reserves review. Oughtonhead: Lease expired returned to landholder Stocking Springs Wood: Lease expired returned to landholder Willowmead: Lease ending, exploring returning to landholder Longspring Woods & Royston Chalk Pit: Sales being progressed Rabley Pitt: To go to sale Uxbridge Alder glade: Exploring options	
11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
The Chair concluded by saying a special thank you to the three Trustees who had stepped down at the AGM, Laura Cashman, Lisa Foster and Kathryn Mackenzie. The Chair explained that Laura Cashman joined as a Trustee in 2021 and has since served on the People Committee, and prior to that, the Health, Safety and Personnel Committee. Kathryn Mackenzie joined as a Trustee in 2020 and has since chaired the former Engagement Committee, and served on the Finance and Resources Committee. Continuing, the Chair explained that Lisa Foster joined as Trustee in 2023 and has since served on the former Engagement Committee. The Chair took the opportunity to wish all three individuals the very best. Lisa Clavering gave thanks to Peter Tallantire in his role as Chair.	

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.