

**Draft Minutes of the 64th Annual General Meeting of the
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Company no. 00676313 and Charity no. 201081
held at The Point Theatre, 14 Leigh Road, Eastleigh SO50 9DE
at 9.45am on Thursday 23rd October 2025**

The meeting opened with 93 members in attendance.

Members were welcomed by the Chief Executive, Debbie Tann MBE. Debbie advised members that the meeting was being recorded and would be available online in an edited form. If any participant chose not to be filmed or photographed, they were advised as to the arrangements. The members were taken through Health and Safety measures after which Debbie introduced Megan McCubbin (President) who took the meeting.

1. Opening address

Megan McCubbin welcomed members to the meeting. Megan introduced the AGM by reflecting on the boldness and bravery of the Wildlife Trust in a sector that was sometimes over-cautious. Megan highlighted the importance of sharing our understanding and passion for the natural world through the interpretation of good science. This may start with the simplest of things, such as introducing friends to the joy of blackberrying.

Megan introduced the panel, firstly David Jordan (Chairman) and Richard Green-Wilkinson (Honorary Treasurer) who would shortly give their reports on the work of the Trust and its finances. Megan then welcomed Debbie Tann (Chief Executive) and Clive Chatters (Company Secretary).

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Helen McCormack, Julian Roberts and William Vine (Trustees), Alex Nicol-Harper (Associate Trustee) and Tim Pinchen (former Trustee) along with Natasha Thorneloe (Director of Finance & Resources) and five other members. Megan advised that an additional 65 members were participating through casting proxy votes.

Megan advised members of the recent death of one of the Trust's Vice-Presidents, Michael Baron, a long-standing Trustee and Chair of the Trust throughout its foundation decades. Condolences had been passed to Michael's family along with thanks for his many years of service.

3. Minutes of the 63rd Annual General Meeting

The President asked those present if the minutes of the 63rd AGM were an accurate record.

The motion **that the minutes are accepted as a true record of the 63rd Annual General Meeting** was proposed by Hazel Fotheringham and seconded by Brian Matthews.

A majority of those voting approved the motion. All those in attendance voted in favour as were the majority of proxy votes where there was one vote against; the motion was therefore passed.

4. Report of the Chairman of the Trust

Megan McCubbin introduced David Jordan, the Chairman of the Trust, who made his report. David reported that the Trust was in good health and was, in the words of the Charity Commission declaration, 'a going concern'. David summarised the Annual Report giving emphasis to recovering habitats through highlighting work at Manor House Farm (Test Valley) and Deacon Hill, (Winchester) along with numerous gardens and urban green spaces. Hampshire Ornithological Society and Hampshire Swifts were thanked for their funding and support of a swift tower, recently constructed at Blashford Lakes. This project exemplified partnership working and the diverse nature of our supporters. David reflected on the interaction of economic growth and the natural world. Through managing farms on the Isle of Wight for nutrient neutrality the Trust has demonstrated how economic activity can be supportive of enhancing the natural world. Conversely, the Trust will continue to resist harmful developments, such as those proposed at Tipner (Portsmouth Harbour). David concluded with expressing pleasure in the Trust's hosting of the national 'Seeing is Believing' leaders meeting on the Island at which we were able to demonstrate our work to other Wildlife Trusts and learn from the experience of others.

5. Report of the Trust's Honorary Treasurer and approval of accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

Megan McCubbin thanked David for his report and introduced Richard Green-Wilkinson, Honorary Treasurer, who summarised the Annual Accounts.

Richard advised members that the financial year had proved challenging with a 16% reduction of income combined with increasing operating costs, notably National Insurance and inflation. Uncertainty over government policy on Nutrient Neutrality and Biodiversity Net Gain has reduced confidence in those lines of income. Fortunately, the prudent use of surplus budgets in the previous two years, meant that the deficit budget was manageable. Richard explained the position regarding financial reserves, long-term obligations and ongoing responsibilities. The year end surplus was £1.8m, with a surplus in unrestricted funds of £0.043m, while free reserves stood at £4.5m.

Richard confirmed that all the Trust's investments were held in ethical funds and reflected on how movement in global markets, driven by political change, was affecting those funds.

Members were directed to the report of the auditors, concluding in a clean audit report.

The President thanked Richard and invited questions from members relating to the Annual Report and Accounts.

In response to a question, members were advised on cash flow relating to the capital costs of establishing infrastructure necessary to deliver nutrient neutrality schemes. There were savings to be made in the medium term but these were relatively small savings when compared to the sale of credits.

Members sought advice on the cost and benefits of Beaver introductions on the Isle of Wight. At present the majority of costs are staff time, but if Beavers are introduced the Trust would need to budget to cover delivery of the project over 10 years.

In answer to a question, members were advised that the increases in National Insurance contributions had cost the Trust c.£140k in the year. Staff salaries had been increased by 4% and contributions to pensions by 1%.

The President thanked David and Richard for their presentations and for their responses to members' questions.

The motion **that the Annual Report and Accounts for 2024-2025 be approved** was proposed by Mary Parker and seconded by Alex Nicol-Harper.

All those in attendance voted in favour of the motion along with all of the proxy votes; the motion was therefore passed.

6. Appointment of Auditors

The motion **that Saffery LLP be re-appointed as the Trust's auditors** was proposed by Malcolm Sonnex and seconded by Christopher Langford.

A majority of those voting approved the motion. All those in attendance voted in favour as were the majority of proxy votes along with two abstentions; the motion was therefore passed.

7. Election of Trustees

Megan McCubbin advised members that over the course of the year Trustees had co-opted two members to serve as Trustees under Article 19.4. Both of the co-opted Trustees were standing for election and three serving Trustees were standing for re-election.

Joy Carter and Ned Densham presented themselves for election, Joy being proposed by David Jordan and seconded by Oliver Cox and Ned being proposed by Richard Green-Wilkinson and seconded by Rachel Coyle.

On the motion that Joy Carter be elected as a Trustee

A majority of those voting approved the motion. All those in attendance voted in favour as did the majority of proxy votes where there was one abstention; the motion was therefore passed.

On the motion that Ned Densham be elected as a Trustee

A majority of those voting approved the motion. All those in attendance voted in favour as did the majority of proxy votes where there were four abstentions; the motion was therefore passed.

The President congratulated Joy and Ned on their election.

Rachel Coyle, Richard Green-Wilkinson and William Vine presented themselves for re-election, all of whom being proposed by Lesley Chin and seconded by Anne Ardill.

On the motion that Rachel Coyle be re-elected as a Trustee

A majority of those voting approved the motion. All those in attendance voted in favour as did the majority of proxy votes where there was one abstention; the motion was therefore passed.

On the motion that Richard Green-Wilkinson be re-elected as a Trustee

A majority of those voting approved the motion. All those in attendance voted in favour as did the majority of proxy votes where there were two votes against and two abstentions; the motion was therefore passed.

On the motion that William Vine be re-elected as a Trustee

A majority of those voting approved the motion. All those in attendance voted in favour as did the majority of proxy votes where there were three votes against and one abstention; the motion was therefore passed.

The President congratulated Rachel Coyle, Richard Green-Wilkinson and William Vine on their re-election and, on behalf of the members, passed thanks to all Trustees for their dedicated service.

The President thanked members for contributing to the effective management of the Trust and closed the 64th Annual General Meeting at 11.10am.

Ends.

The formal part of the meeting was followed by the presentation of awards to Brian Matthews and Linda Seekings who, as volunteers, had given outstanding contributions to the Trust.

Megan thanked David Jordan who was retiring as a Trustee and Chairman. David thanked members for appointing Joy Carter as a Trustee and advised that Joy would be his successor as Chair of Council. David then thanked Julian Roberts for his service as a Trustee, particularly his role in reviewing Health and Safety. Julian was standing down due to international responsibilities. David also congratulated Clive Chatters on retirement from his service to the Trust, in many roles over the last 40 years, culminating in his role as Company Secretary.

David concluded his role as Chairman by reflecting on the growing strength of the Trust over the last decade and the immense challenges of moving forward in a particularly challenging political outlook. He looked forward with confidence, knowing the strengths of the Trust and the commitment and support of its members.

Clive Chatters
Company Secretary