**Minutes of the 56th Annual General Meeting**

**22nd November 2018 at 9.00pm**

**In attendance:**

Sue Mayer (Chair)

Nigel Huish (Vice-Chair)

Paul Lynch (Trustee)

Jayn Sterland

Tony Hams (Trustee)

Huw Edwards (Trustee)

Esther Wakeman (Trustee)

Fred Pickering (Trustee)

Jo Smith (CEO)

37 members (the register of attendees is retained by the Trust for its records)

The AGM was preceded by a Wilder Derbyshire Event, introduced by the CEO and with presentations by a number of external speakers.

# Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Stephanie Kershaw (Secretary)

Peter Bradbury (Treasurer)

# Approval of the Minutes of the 55th AGM Held on 4th December 2017

The minutes of the 55th AGM were accepted as a true record.

# Receive and adopt the Trustees’ Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2018

The Chair reminded members that the responsibilities of Trustees included ensuring that the Trust was properly managed, complied with its aims and objectives and its strategic plan and was financially sound with no mismanagement.

The Chair also highlighted that the Trust was continuing to develop a Living Landscapes approach to expand space for nature outside our vital network of reserves and had benefitted from a grant to extend this work to the Trent

An important theme of the Trust’s work was bringing people closer to nature including working with YMCA and disadvantaged individuals. We also helped more children access nature through Nature Babies, Nature Tots and Forest Schools

The Chair said that all our volunteers are vital to the Trust’s work and this year with 2 neighbouring trusts have funding for a ‘Working for Nature’ project to train people in conservation skills.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust had continued to actively defend nature. For example, the badger cull was hanging over Derbyshire but did not come and over 200 badgers were vaccinated in an expanded programme of work. DWT became the national training hub for DEFRA’s Animal and Plant Health Agency. The Chair said another example of defending nature continued to be influencing planning to mitigate impacts on wildlife and hopefully see biodiversity gains

There had been an investment in the Trust’s commercial development with new charity shops in Bakewell and Belper. The Whistlestop Centre at Matlock Bath is being revitalised and a café opened at Black Rocks. All hoped to bring both income and new audiences for our work

The Chair reported that membership had stalled at 14,000 and DWT would be investing to increase membership in the future. Brexit brings uncertainty but doesn't have significant financial implications for the Trust.

The Chair also drew attention to the excellent work done by the staff led by Jo Smith CEO. She thanked them all and also all the volunteers who made the Trust’s work possible.

The Vice-Chair then presented an overview of the Trust’s accounts for 2017-18 saying that

* Total income in the year was £2,248K. This compared to £1,757K in the previous financial year.
* Income from charitable activities was £1,211K, of which, £1,061K was derived from grants and service level agreements. The balance (£150K) being from education and reserve management.
* The other major income streams were donations (£166K), legacies (£308K), trading (£79K), membership (£467K) and investment income (£17K).
* Total expenditure within the Trust was £2,026K, compared to £1,814K in 2016/17.

The Vice-Chair also explained that the current Reserves Policy is that the Trust should hold the equivalent of at least three months core expenditure in reserve.

* The £2,798K currently held in reserves are:
* Restricted funds                            £1,984K
* Designated funds                             £364K
* General funds                                   £450K

The Treasurer reported that Baldwins, the Trust’s auditors, stated that the accounts provided a true and fair view of the activities for the year, had been properly prepared in line with UK GAAP and in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Questions were invited. Phil Shore asked whether the Report was available as hard-copy. A copy was given to him.

**The Adoption of the Trustees’ Annual Report and Accounts was carried unanimously by a show of hands.**

# Election of Trustees

The Chair reminded everybody that Trustees had to stand for re-election every 3 years and could only serve a maximum of 9 years.

The Chair then informed everybody that Tony Hams was therefore sadly retiring as a trustee, having served 9 years. She thanked him warmly for his contribution, especially as Chair, and also his support since she has become chair. He was given a card and a gift.

The Chair also highlighted that Julie Lane and Sarah Lewis had stood down as Trustees during the year for personal reasons.

Five trustees were nominated by the Board for re-election. Profiles of these trustees were available at the AGM and on the Trust’s website. The nominations were:

**Sue Mayer**

Proposed by: Dan Cutts Seconded by: John Green

**Nigel Huish**

Proposed by: Sue Mayer Seconded by: Paul Lynch

**Huw Edwards**

Proposed by: Fred Pickering Seconded by: Nigel Huish

**Fred Pickering**

Proposed by: Steve Orridge Seconded by: Nigel Huish

**Paul Lynch**

Proposed by: Fred Pickering Seconded by: Noreen Cutts

**The decision to re-elect the above five trustees was carried unanimously by a show of hands.**

**Two co-opted trustees were also nominated for election.** Profiles of these trustees were available at the AGM and on the Trust’s website

**Esther Wakeman**

Proposed by: Huw Edwards Seconded by: Fred Pickering

**Cara Turton-Chambers**

Proposed by: Paul Lynch Seconded by: Sue Mayer

**The decision to elect the trustees was carried unanimously by a show of hands.**

**Following a recruitment campaign two new Trustees were recommended for election.** Profiles of these trustees were available at the AGM.

**Lynn Crowe**

Proposed by: Paul Lynch Seconded by: Nigel Huish

**Gillian Foxcroft**

Proposed by: Sue Mayer Seconded by: Fred Pickering

**The decision to elect the trustees was carried unanimously by a show of hands.**

# Appointment of as the Trust’s auditors for the year 2018/19

The Vice-Chair explained that a decision to undertake an audit tender was taken at the DWT Finance meeting, in July. Ten firms, local and national, were invited to tender and six tenders were received.

It was therefore recommended that BHP Chartered Accountants be appointed as the Trust's auditors for the year ending 31st March 2018.

**The decision was carried unanimously by a show of hands and BHP Chartered Accountants were appointed the Trust’s auditors for 2018/19**

# Any Other Business (notified in advance to the Trust’s Head Office)

Although this item had not been previously notified, Noreen Cutts asked whether consideration could be given to holding the AGM in the summer as in the winter, travel to, and therefore attendance at, can be problematic. The Chair stated that there were procedural reasons why it is at this time of year, but that consideration would be given to moving it forward slightly if possible.

There being no other business, the Chair drew the meeting to a close with special thanks to the CEO and staff for their work that evening in making the event such a success.