

**Minutes of the 56th Annual General Meeting
of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, held on
Saturday 12th September 2020 at
Online via Zoom.**



Introductory remarks

The Chair, Linda Rosborough, welcomed everyone to the Scottish Wildlife Trust's 56th AGM, the Trust's first ever online AGM. She noted the success of the first online National Members' Day the previous weekend and thanked members for their support in participating in the Trust's governance process under the new circumstances.

Ruchir Shah, Director of External Affairs, outlined how members could participate within the event using the Q&A and chat function. He also made members aware that the AGM was being recorded.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Dr Tim Duffy, Anthony Robson and Alasdair Lemon.

2. To approve the minutes from the 55th AGM held at the Heriot-Watt University, Scottish Borders Campus, Nether Road, Galashiels TD1 3HF

The minutes were formally **approved** as a true and accurate record.

Proposer: Deryck Irving

Seconder: Vicki Nash

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

3. To receive the Council's report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020

The Chair gave a presentation of the work the Trust had done in the previous year. Her third year as Chair had seen the Covid-19 outbreak and subsequent lockdown which had brought with it new challenges. She was pleased to report that the Trust had risen to these challenges with robustness and rigour and recorded thanks to Jo Pike and the staff team for their hard work and dedication in the face of the pandemic. While it was not clear what the future would bring, the Trust's strong foundations would stand it in good stead in the weeks and months ahead.

The Chair then highlighted some of the Trust's key achievements over the past year in education and working with volunteers, as well as citing notable work on the Trust's reserves and within visitor centres, which included the first ever alder signal moth recording in Scotland at Jupiter Urban Wildlife Centre and celebrating 50 years of Loch of the Lowes Wildlife Reserve.

Jo Pike, Chief Executive presented her thoughts on some of the Trust's key activities and achievements in policy, advocacy, and major projects during 2019-20, including celebrating the award of European Protected Species status for beavers and the successful campaign to save Coul Links from a golf development through a high profile campaign and public enquiry.

The Chair thanked JP, and then recorded her deepest thanks on behalf of all of Council and the staff team to all members and supporters, for making these and many more achievements possible. She also gave sincere thanks to all of the Trust's funders and partners for their continued and much needed support.

Susan McKenzie, Director of Finance and Resources, presented the report and accounts to the Annual General Meeting and provided an overview on the Trust's financial situation.

It was noted later in the meeting that the initial financial information shown on the slide had been displayed in error and the correct financial information was shown on the screen to all attendees at the end of the meeting.

4. To re-appoint auditors of the Trust: RSM, First Floor, Quay 2,139 Fountainbridge, Edinburgh EH3 9QG.

The Chair proposed the re-appointment of RSM as external auditors. RSM were formally re-appointed as external auditors.

Proposer: Amanda Forsyth

Secunder: Karen Chambers

5. Council Election

Nicola Munro, Convenor of the Nominations Committee, gave a short presentation and overview of the responsibilities and work of the Scottish Wildlife Trust Council. She confirmed that trustees had voted unanimously in favour for Linda Rosborough to serve for a second three-year term as Chair of the Trust and that she had agreed.

NM then spoke to the results of the Council election, thanking all four candidates for their interest and application. She confirmed that RSM provided the role of scrutineer as required by the Articles of Association and announced that Emma Steel and Alasdair Lemon had been successfully elected to Council following an electronic vote. She congratulated the two new trustees and extended a warm welcome to them both.

NM reported that both Amanda Forsyth and Andrew Binnie were standing down from Council at the AGM. Amanda had served for six years as Vice Chair for Finance and Council was incredibly grateful for her robust and shrewd counsel over the years as Convenor of the Finance and Audit Committee. Andrew had been a committed and much valued member of Council for the last three years and NM was pleased to confirm that he would continue to serve as a member of Conservation Committee.

The Chair thanked NM for her input, echoing the welcome to the two new trustees and thanks to the departing trustees for their valuable service, wishing them every future success and happiness.

6. Any other relevant business

As no notification had been received of any other formal business, the Chair thanked all attendees for their participation and formally closed the Annual General Meeting.

APPEND SEDARUNT

Footnote:

The Chair then invited questions on any aspect of the Trust's work. Subjects discussed included the reintroduction of the lynx to Scotland, Trust resources with regard to planning, children's rights in nature, learning from other organisations and how best to use the Trust's influence in the political landscape.