

**Minutes of the 57th Annual General Meeting
of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, held on
Saturday 11 September 2021,
online via Zoom.**



Introductory remarks

The Chair, Linda Rosborough, welcomed people and thanked everyone for joining the Scottish Wildlife Trust's 57th AGM, the Trust's second online AGM.

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.

The Chair opened the AGM with a run-through of the programme which was followed by a video of a selection of wildlife highlights supporters have shared over the past year.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Dr Tim Duffy.

2. To approve the minutes from the 56th AGM held online via zoom.

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

Proposer: Patrick Baird

Seconder: David Ross

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

3. To receive the Council's report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021

The Chair gave a presentation of the work the Trust had done in the previous year. Her fourth year as Chair had seen many challenges with coming in and out of lockdowns. She was proud to say that the Trust had risen to the challenges and wanted to record her sincere thanks to Jo Pike and the staff team for their work during the pandemic. While the future is of course uncertain she is confident that the Trust is in good heart with strong foundations which will carry us through whatever the coming weeks and months will bring.

The Chair then highlighted some of the Trust's key achievements during 2020-21, including carrying out vital habitat restoration and access improvements, successfully collaborating with NFU Scotland, publishing our Fisheries Management Policy, finalising an Ecological Coherence Plan for Edinburgh, launching an online learning zone, supporting our Young Leaders and re-opening our visitor centres.

The Chair gave sincere thanks to all of the Trust's funders and partners for their continued and much needed support and 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.

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.

4. To appoint auditors of the Trust: Chiene + Tait, 61 Dublin Street, Edinburgh EH5 6NL

The Chair advised that after four years with RSM it had been agreed that the external audit be put to tender and after a competitive process, Chiene + Tait approved by Council to be appointed as the Trust's auditors

The Chair proposed the appointment of Chiene + Tait as external auditors. Chiene + Tait were formally appointed as external auditors.

Proposer: Bob Gorynski

Seconder: Theo Odie

5. Council Election

The Chair advised that a number of Trustees had reached the end of their elected term. These were Karen Chambers, Kenny Taylor, Deryck Irving and Nicky Munro. The Chair confirmed that Karen McKellar, a co-opted trustee, was also standing down.

The Chair thanked each trustee for their valuable service and wished them every future success and happiness.

The Chair then spoke about the results of the election and advised that standing for re-election were Tim Duffy, John Morris, Anthony Robson and Jane Stuart-Smith and standing for election were Julian Caldecott and Chris Arnold.

The Chair confirmed that as the number of individuals standing for election was less than the number of vacancies on Council, all the individuals standing for re-election and election were elected to Council.

The Chair offered her congratulations and issued a very warm welcome to the new members of Council and thanked the individuals standing for re-election, for their continued and much valued support.

6. Special business

The Chair then came to the final item for consideration. She noted that the Trust had modernised its Articles of Association in 2018, and now asked members to approve slightly amended wording to achieve the following:

a) firstly, to ensure clarity in the role of the Company Secretary and the scrutineer within the voting procedure.

b) secondly, in order to carry out due diligence ahead of any election to Council, to add the wording "Council will make arrangements ahead of any election to ensure that candidates are suitably qualified, experienced and eligible to act as trustees, and that there are no unassailable conflicts of interests."

c) finally, to add as new Articles 15.6, 15.7 and 15.8 in order to be explicit that the Trust has powers to call meetings by a variety of means – by electronic means; in multiple locations and by a mixture of both

Attendees were asked to vote in the poll appearing on screen. The amendments to the articles of association were **approved**.

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:

There was a video presentation of the Saving Scotland's Red Squirrel Project, and a presentation from CEO Jo Pike sharing thoughts for the future. The Chair then invited questions on any aspect of the Trust's work. Subjects discussed included the funding of the Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels project, re-introduction of mammals, the Trust's position on future beaver expansion in Scotland, plans for work on smaller reserves, working with the Scottish farming community, and a member's survey on what they imagine "Peace with Nature" would look like. The Q&A was followed by footage of Handa and finally of Montrose Basin.