

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held online on Monday 14th September 2020 commencing at 2 p.m.

Present: 16 Members. Chair of Council Ms Crishni Waring in the Chair.

1. Apologies for Absence: Mr Duncan McArdle, Ms Kay Reeve.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15th June 2019. These were taken as read and were approved.

3. To receive:

- **Report of Council for 2019.** This had been available to members via the Trust's website for the past 2 weeks. Dr Ed Green, CEO of the Trust, gave a summary of key points:
 - *Nature Reserves:* 2019 saw the completion of a 2-year programme to expand Brandon Marsh; 2018 saw the addition of Piles Coppice and Brandon Reach, and in 2019 we finished an agreement to add 2 parcels of land to the South of the River Avon that connect the Southern section of Brandon Marsh to the old Garden Organic site. This 2-year programme has roughly doubled the size of Brandon Marsh.
 - *Living Landscapes:* our HBA team of ecologists carried out an analysis of data collected over 25 years in order to guide the best application of the Nature Recovery Fund, set up by Trustees in 2018. This fund currently contains £1m set aside for habitat creation; in 2019 we answered the question of where best to spend this money. 2019 also saw the resubmission of the River Sherbourne bid; in early 2020 we heard that this bid was successful. This 3/4-year project is our first large scale landscape project in our main urban centre of Coventry and will tie in with City of Culture.
 - *Health & Skills:* The TEaM (The Environment and Me) project won 2 prestigious awards and we made good progress with the NHS to position this area of our work for Social Prescribing. The Brandon Marsh Voluntary Conservation Team won the Queens Award for Voluntary Service, the equivalent of an MBE - we held a presentation ceremony at Brandon with the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire.
 - *Membership:* at an all-time historic high at the end of 2019 and has continued to grow.

- *Governance*: we said goodbye to three Trustees, which initiated a recruitment process – this has resulted in 3 members putting themselves forward for election later in the agenda of this AGM.
- *COVID-19*: there is no doubt that, despite very challenging times, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust remains a going concern – this is a matter of some pride and satisfaction and something that everybody associated with the Trust deserves to take some credit for.

Ms Waring remarked that there is lots of cause for celebration and it is unfortunate that the pandemic has limited our ability to share this in a more celebratory fashion.

- **Statement of Accounts for 2018.** The Treasurer of the Trust, Mr John McKenzie, presented the Statement of Accounts, which had also been available via the Trust's website. 2019 was a good year with a surplus achieved of just over £179,000. There have been some technical adjustments to the accounts and a clean bill of health from the Auditor. We have fared well and things still look good despite the situation with COVID-19. It is great to see the membership at record levels, which underpins the financial situation.
- **Auditors' Certificate.** The certificate of Harrison, Beale and Owen had also been available on the website.

There were no questions on any of these documents. Mr McKenzie proposed that they were adopted, this was seconded by Dr Martin Randall, and approved unanimously.

4. Re-election of existing trustees standing down through rotation. The following Trustees were unanimously elected to serve another 3-year term:

- Mr Mike Bunney
- Ms Kay Reeve
- Mr John McKenzie
- Dr Susan Juned
- Mr Duncan McCardle
- Mr Geoff Litterick
- Mr Laurence Wilbraham

5. Election of new Trustees to Council. Ms Waring outlined the recruitment process: expressions of interest had been invited from all members, followed by shortlisting and interviews, as a result of which the following members were welcomed to the meeting and recommended for election:

- Ms Beth Nicholson
- Mr Chris Reading
- Mr Marc Sanderson

All were elected unanimously and welcomed on to Council.

6. To elect Auditors for 2020. Mr McKenzie commented that Harrison, Beale and Owen have now produced two sets of accounts for the Trust and have done an excellent job, providing good advice and implementing a few changes. Mr McKenzie therefore proposed that Harrison, Beale and Owen were appointed as Auditors for the period up until the next AGM. This was seconded by Dr Susan Juned, and approved unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.30 p.m.