



Company Number 06460936 Charity Number 1123473

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT GOLDWATER LODGE

4TH OCTOBER 2023 AT 19:00

Present: The Current Board of Trustees

Paul Downes (Chair), Elizabeth Cuttle, Margo Scott, Andrew Halstead,

Apologies for absence

Caroline Hughes, Jeremy Bate, Ron Neale

In attendance:

Jeremy Dalton - Estates Manager

Janette Dalgliesh – Company Secretary

Number of members in attendance: 35

Minutes: Janette Dalgliesh

Ordinary Business

- 1) Minutes of the AGM held on 4th October 2022
Proposed by Robin Hoyle Seconded by David Robbins
Unanimously approved as a true record.
- 2) Adoption of the examined accounts of the Society for the year ending 31st December 2022
Proposed by Greg Devine Seconded by Steven Hill
Passed unanimously.
- 3) Re-election by rotation of existing Trustees: Caroline Hughes and Margo Scott
Proposed by Greg Devine Seconded by Jenny Saunders
Passed unanimously.
PD announced that Elizabeth Cuttle was retiring as a Trustee.
- 4) Appointment of **Alliotts LLP** as Auditors and Examiners
Proposed by Robin Hoyle Seconded by Greg Devine
Passed unanimously.

AOB

Paul Downes gave a brief overview of the year stating that HCPS was in a good financial position. Money had been deposited in ethical funds to ensure that maintenance of the Common could be supported in future years.

Investment was also being made in the Society's green credentials with solar panels on the roof at Heather Farm, use of biomass from the Common and moving to electric rather petrol power tools.



During the year the Society helped The Lightbox surrender part of its lease which has enabled Prime Acrobatics to expand its offering. Some of the groups who moved out of this area have been housed on other parts of HCPS land.

At this point Paul also thanked Elizabeth Cuttle for her long association with the Society and presented her with a painting by local artist Hannah Bruce.

Jeremy Dalton then gave a brief resume of the last year on the common

Question raised.

Wheatsheaf Common – it was confirmed that more “dog” bins would be provided. Although this would normally be part of a SANG agreement for this area because discussions hadn’t been concluded then HCPS would install them now

Paula Eddington queried the SANG 3 delay and it was confirmed that discussions were ongoing.

Charles asked if the council were being difficult and it was confirmed that there were potentially delaying tactics being put in place. Currently the area is not at risk as the main work has been completed.

Paula Eddington raised a concern about the ditches being cleared and whether this would impact the work carried out to relieve flooding. **Jeremy Dalton** stated that HCPS would be maintaining the open sections and talks were ongoing with those close to the culverts.

Anne Tilbury asked if more ponds / scrapes were going to happen. It was confirmed that nothing is planned.

Jeremy Dalton also mentioned that more whips were to be planted along the A320 to create a thicker border with the road.

David Robins queried whether the number of Dartford Warblers were lower than in previous years.

Margo Scott replied that they did not like the exceptionally cold snap that had happened in the winter which had caused some issues.

Bill Pugh queried whether the current situation at WBC would cause an issue with the SANG at Heather Farm. **Paul Downes** responded that there was no ring-fenced account for capital works but that the annual £50k of maintenance funds was being received. He concluded that it was the Trustees’s duty to look at a sensible solution.

Greg Devine asked whether under S106 CIL monies had been misappropriated i.e. WBC had received money for specific purpose and the therefore their contract had been breached. This may mean that a joint action may be possible. No conclusion was given.

There followed a presentation by **Lucy Lee** of WWF on the current work of WWF and the state of UK nature.