



MINUTES OF THE 44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LONDON WILDLIFE TRUST

Held at Camley Street Natural Park, 12 Camley St, London N1C 4PW

Sunday 5th October 2025 from 2:00– 5:00pm

Attendance:

Members (excl. Trustees)	42
Trustees	11 + 3 Youth Board Members
Staff members	13
Total	69

Proxy votes:

Invalid	1
To the Chair	128
To another	1
Total	130

Valid votes:

Attendance	50 (including 5 staff and 3 Youth Board Members)
Proxy votes	129
Total	179

Welcome by Chair:

Welcome and introductions given by Rufus Radcliffe, Chair of the Board of Trustees. The Chair praised David Mooney and the brilliant team at LWT for what he described as a really good year with amazing progress. He reaffirmed London Wildlife Trust's mission, 'a London alive with nature', and noted that while there is no finishing line to this mission, the Trust has made impressive progress this year. He thanked all members for their support, highlighting record membership at 19,000 members. Other significant milestones achieved during the year included record income, our largest and most skilled team to date, more land in nature recovery than ever before, and a record amount of influence with local authorities. He also announced this was the largest AGM to date.

Reflecting on the Trust's strong foundations, The Chair acknowledged the lasting contribution of the late Mathew Frith, whose passion for London's nature was instrumental in shaping the organisation.

Looking ahead, the Chair outlined several key projects for the coming year, including: glow-worms in Croydon this October, beavers in Barking in the next 12 months, and £1.5 million from the Mayor of London to support rewilding Hillingdon and Redbridge.

The Chair also announced an upcoming BBC Documentary, Wild London, presented by Sir David Attenborough and co-produced by LWT and Passion Pictures. The programme will



celebrate London's extraordinary wildlife while highlighting its fragility. We're hopeful that it will drive awareness of our mission.

The Chair concluded by expressing his excitement for the year ahead, noting that the Trust has the team, ambition and plans in place to lead major landscape scale nature recovery across London. He emphasised that LWT is determined to build on this momentum and continue driving forward a vision of a London alive with nature.

1. Introduction of the AGM Formal Business

Dr Stephen Snaith (Hon. Secretary) introduced the formal business of the meeting, beginning with apologies. Members were invited to provide any additional apologies during the break for inclusion in the formal minutes.

2. Minutes of the 43rd AGM

The Hon. Secretary reminded all that minutes are available online for members to view at the London Wildlife Trust (LWT) website and a link was also sent out via email. The 43rd AGM minutes were proposed, seconded and accepted as a true record by a show of hands from members; there were no votes against or abstentions.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Presentation and approval of Audited Accounts for year ending 31st March 2025

The Hon. Secretary reminded all that accounts are available online for members to view at the LWT website. Hannah Fox (Hon. Treasurer) gave a brief presentation about the accounts for the last financial year, reporting a clean audit from Crowe UK LLP, which is a huge credit to the hard work of the finance and executive team. Reviewing the financial trends chart showing the income and expenditure over the last eight years, the Hon. Treasurer noted steady growth and highlighted that this year we've seen our highest income. The key message was that we're in a very healthy financial position.

Going into more detail on our income and expenditure over the last twelve months to March 2025: total income was £7.3 million (a 31% increase compared to the previous year.) £2 million has come from membership, donations and legacies, £3.5 million in grants and contracts from a wide variety of funders to fund our projects, and £1.8 million from trading income – such as cafés and events at Camley Street, Woodberry and Walthamstow Wetlands. Expenditure increased by 8% to £6.2 million. Just under half of this is on staff, which is our biggest asset, and we have 76 full time equivalent members of staff now. About £1.5 million of expenditure was on trading activities. The remaining was spent on nature reserve management and conservation, visitor engagement, membership and fundraising, and costs in cafés. Overall, this year we had a surplus of £1.1 million, which is a very helpful position. The Hon. Treasurer then reviewed our balance sheet, showing a snapshot of LWT's financial position as of 31st March 2025. It showed net assets of £5.3 million, of which nearly £2 million is in fixed assets, such as land and buildings. £0.7 million is in investments, namely an endowment received from National Lottery Heritage Fund and is invested currently in ethical charity funds with CCLA investment managers. The remaining assets include cash, debtors and creditors, which are all in a healthy position.

Unrestricted reserves stood at £1 million, exceeding the target range of £375k - £500k. This is a positive place to be in, but we do not want to hold too much in reserves, we want to be spending them down. So, the Senior Leadership Team have been



developing a detailed business plan to help us work out where to focus our resources to generate even more impact as an organisation. The Hon. Treasurer concluded the Trust remains in a healthy financial state. In response to a question from a member, who considered that the reserves policy of the Trust set the level too low, the Hon. Treasurer confirmed that the reserves level held by the Trust was already under review by the Board. The outcome of the review would be shared with members at the next AGM.

The Hon. Secretary proposed the approval of the accounts. The proposal was seconded and approved by show of hands, with all in favour; no abstentions or votes against.

5. Reappointment of Auditors

The Hon. Secretary proposed the continued use of Crowe UK LLP as the Trust's auditors. This was seconded and approved by show of hands with all in favour; no abstentions or votes against. A member asked how long they have been our auditors and the Hon. Treasurer confirmed the first year they audited was 2013, so 12 years. Another member's question prompted a value-for-money review action to be noted for the year ahead. The result of the review will be communicated to members at the next AGM.

6. Reappointment of Trustee

Trustee Tony Richardson proposed the reappointment of Dr Stephen Snaith for a further year, which was seconded and approved by show of hands all in favour; no abstentions or votes against.

7. Appointment of new Trustees

The Hon. Secretary proposed Charlotte Fraser and Kate Roberts as new Trustees. Short introductions were given by both Charlotte and Kate. Charlotte is a Campaigner at Oceana UK. Her work focuses on public mobilisation campaigns and parliamentary engagement, advocating for stronger marine protection policies in the UK. Charlotte is a former London Wildlife Trust Youth Board Member. She credited her experience on the Youth Board as a key factor in inspiring her to apply for the Trustee position. Kate is currently a Policy and Public Affairs Manager, focusing on mental health and wellbeing at The Children's Society. She has a background in working on policy areas relating to young people, youth work and outdoor learning, alongside experience in advocacy and youth engagement. She has a strong interest in governance, having been actively involved since the age of 21, with previous trustee roles at Royal Holloway Students' Union and PeaceJam UK. With a degree in physical geography and volunteer experience running a Rangers unit (Girlguiding), Kate is very passionate about bringing access to nature to young people. The Hon. Secretary proposed that Charlotte and Kate are appointed as Trustees. This was seconded and approved by show of hands with all in favour; no abstentions or votes against.

8. Proposal for Board 2025/26

The Hon. Secretary proposed the board of Trustees for 2025/2026 as: Rufus Radcliffe, Dr Stephen Snaith, Hannah Fox, Kapila Perera, Tony Richardson, Shara Samra, Rachel Starling, Andrew Stephen, Dani Rayner, Marcus Adams, Charlotte Fraser and Kate Roberts. This was seconded and approved by show of hands with all in favour; no abstentions or votes against.



9. AOB

No formal AOB raised ahead of AGM. The Hon. Secretary invited attendees to propose AOB during the meeting, but none were raised.

10. Break at 2:50 pm – 3:15 pm.

Light refreshments with sandwiches served.

11. Members' evening begins

3:15 pm Review of the Year – Senior Management Team, London Wildlife Trust and London Wildlife Trust Youth Board

4:00 pm Remembering Mathew Frith – David Mooney, Chief Executive Officer, London Wildlife Trust and Chris Gannaway, Member and Friend

12. 4:15pm Q&A – Rufus Radcliffe, Chair & David Mooney, CEO.

Question from member on our work on reintroducing beavers to Barking.

- We are talking in detail about this. We have a funding application currently in progress, with a decision expected in November 2025. Regardless of the outcome of this application, we're still going to do some work with the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham to reintroduce beavers into Eastbrookend Country Park. We're absolutely determined to get beavers into Barking.

Question from member on changes to beaver licensing and the possibility of wild releases in London.

- There has been a lot of media coverage recently about wild releases of beavers. It's unlikely we'll see wild releases in London in the near future. However, licensing options exist for both wild and enclosed releases in exceptional circumstances. We believe London could make a strong case for an enclosed release. It would offer major benefits in connecting people with nature, as well as the habitat benefits.

Question from member on incorporating wildlife-friendly features such as bat bricks in new developments.

- We've been working closely with architects, developers and local authorities to improve understanding of how to design wildlife features into buildings. Through our consultancy work and work with the Greater London Authority, we're promoting design codes that integrate these elements from the outset. At Walthamstow Wetlands, for example, we have a replica industrial chimney fitted with bat bricks and swift boxes to showcase how these measures can be built in easily and effectively.

Question from member on updates to the London Plan and developer contributions (Section 106)



- The London Plan consultation remains open, with an easy-read version published recently and responses due later in the month. LWT continues to engage actively with the consultation process. Section 106 agreements – developer contributions that fund local improvements – are largely being overtaken by Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and the Urban Greening Factor in London. However, section 106 can still apply to specific developments. LWT encourages members to respond to the consultation, particularly in support of policies they want such as BNG, green infrastructure and policies to strengthen Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, as these can often receive opposition.

13. Members' evening continues

4:25 pm Discussion of 'Renaturing: Small Ways to Wild the Word' – Dr James Canton, Author

4:50 pm Reserve closed