



MINUTES OF THE 45th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LONDON WILDLIFE TRUST

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

Sunday 4th October 2026 from 2:00– 5:00pm

Attendance:

Members (excl. Trustees)	37
Trustees	12
Staff members	15
Total	64

Proxy votes:

Invalid	0
To the Chair	57
To another	1
Total	58

Valid votes:

Attendance	37
Proxy votes	58
Total	95

Welcome by Chair:

The outgoing Chair, Rufus Radcliffe, welcomed members to the 45th Annual General Meeting and thanked attendees for their continued support of London Wildlife Trust.

The Chair reflected on key achievements during the year, including:

- Progress across the Trust's 36 nature reserves.
- Development of projects exploring the return of white storks and beavers to London.
- More than one million visitors to the Trust's main visitor sites.
- Delivery of 455 school sessions reaching over 11,000 children.
- Membership exceeding 20,000 members.
- More than 26,000 volunteer hours contributed.



- Increased public profile through the BBC's *Wild London* documentary and wider public engagement campaigns.

The Chair thanked members, volunteers, staff, trustees and supporters for their contribution to the Trust's success.

Formal Meeting

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 44th 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 44th 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. Members were invited to provide any additional matters during the break for inclusion in the formal minutes.

4. Presentation and approval of Audited Accounts for year ending 31st March 2026

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 COO, Head of Finance and the entire finance team.

Reviewing the financial trends chart showing the income and expenditure over the last five years, the Hon. Treasurer noted that the overall trend is steady growth and the key message is that we're in a very healthy financial position. LWT had a deliberate deficit of £435k in the year because in 2025 income was greater than expenditure. As a result, in 2026 this past surplus was invested in the Trust's capacity and future growth and the upfront grant funding we received in 2025 was spent.

One of LWT's aims over the last few years was to reduce our reliance on grants. This year we received £2.9m (41%) from grants and contracts, £2.2m (31%) from membership, legacies, and donations and £1.9m (27%) from events and cafes.

Expenditure in 2025–26 was £7.3m, with just under half of total expenditure relating to staff, reflecting the organisation's biggest asset. There was an average of 86 FTE during the year, compared with 76 FTE in 2025. A further £1.5m was spent on trading activities across the cafés and events. The remaining expenditure comprised non-staff direct and supporting costs associated with delivering the organisation's work across nature reserve management and conservation, visitor engagement, membership and fundraising.



The Hon. Treasurer then reviewed our balance sheet, showing a snapshot of LWT's financial position as of 31st March 2026. It showed net assets of £4.9m, of which nearly £1.8m is in fixed assets, such as land and buildings. £0.6m is in investments, namely an endowment received from National Lottery Heritage Fund and is currently invested in ethical charity funds with CCLA investment managers. The remaining assets include cash, debtors and creditors, which are all in a healthy position.

London Wildlife Trust aims to hold sufficient reserves to meet a range of contingencies whilst allowing the use of financial resources to further our charitable outcomes. The Hon Treasurer noted that with this in mind the Finance committee reviewed the target in the past year. They based the target on modelling of a set of plausible but unlikely negative scenarios leading to reduced income or increased expenditure, as well as what a worst-case wind down scenario would require. The target was set for £500k - £800k. The actuals at year end were £817k, which is just slightly higher than range and expected to fall in the coming year.

The Hon. Treasurer concluded the Trust remains in a healthy financial state and that LWT finances are exceeding our forecasts and plans, allowing us to continue to make investments in areas like membership which generate additional revenues for the future.

The Hon. Secretary proposed the approval of the accounts. The proposal was seconded and approved by show of hands, with majority in favour; one abstention and zero votes against.

5. Reappointment of Auditors

In response to a query raised at the 2025 AGM as to when we last went to market for our audit arrangements, members were advised that a review of audit arrangements had been undertaken in the previous year. The results of this review demonstrated that Crowe LLP continued to provide good value and service.

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.

6. Reappointment of Trustee

Chair Stephen Snaith proposed the reappointment of Hannah Fox 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 Kabari Bhattacharya and Joanna Davidson as new Trustees. Short introductions were given by both Kabari Bhattacharya and Joanna Davidson.



Kabari Bhattacharya, a previous partner at EY outlined her experience in governance, climate finance, sustainability, risk management and organisational transformation.

Joanna Davidson outlined her extensive experience in housing, local government and the Wildlife Trust movement, including previous involvement with London Wildlife Trust and several other Wildlife Trust organisations across the UK.

The Hon. Secretary proposed the appointment of Kabari Bhattacharya as Trustee. This was seconded and approved by show of hands with majority in favour; one abstention and zero votes against.

The Hon. Secretary proposed the appointment of Joanna Davidson as Trustee. 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 2026/2027 as: Marcus Adams, Hannah Fox, Charlotte Fraser, Dani Rayner, Tony Richardson, Kate Roberts, Rachel Starling, Andrew Stephen, Kabari Bhattacharya and Joanna Davidson.

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. Retirement of Honorary Secretary

Stephen Snaith addressed the meeting and reflected on his eleven years of service as Trustee and Honorary Secretary. He thanked fellow trustees, staff and members for their support and expressed confidence in the future direction of the Trust.

11. Appointment of Honorary Secretary

Members were informed that Marcus Adams would succeed Stephen Snaith as Honorary Secretary.

12. Close of Formal AGM

There being no further business, the formal Annual General Meeting was closed. The Chair thanked members for their attendance and support.

13. Members' event begins

Q&A – Tony Richardson, Chair & David Mooney, CEO.

Question: Will the Trust change its approach to managing or acquiring land as London faces faster climate change, drought and water shortages?



- The Trust is already reviewing these issues. As it is difficult to predict which species and habitats will be most affected, the priority is to keep existing reserves in the best possible condition, so they are resilient. This includes improving habitat quality, restoring waterways, adapting site management and considering whether additional land should be brought under management.

Reserves cannot succeed in isolation, so better-connected habitats, collaboration with other landowners and more space for nature will also be essential. Previous resilience work may have helped Trust reserves avoid wildfires during the recent extreme summer weather.

Question 2: Beyond the reported 26,000 volunteer hours, how much volunteer effort is actually required to keep the Trust and its reserves functioning, and what target is being set?

- The Trust is refreshing its key performance indicators and aims to maintain and support around 1,000 volunteers. A target for volunteer hours has not yet been set.

Updated reserve management, maintenance, climate and sustainability plans will first establish the work required, its cost, and the appropriate mix of staff, contractors and volunteers. A volunteer-hours target will then be set against that need and checked with volunteers to ensure it is realistic and sustainable.

Question 3: If a wildfire threatened a reserve near homes, would large and potentially damaging firebreaks be required, and is this included in the Trust's planning?

- The Trust favours a landscape-scale, risk-based approach rather than extensive firebreaks. Restoring wetlands and retaining water can reduce both wildfire and flood risk. Hillingdon and Hounslow were given as examples of where agencies and local authorities could work across organisational boundaries on nature-based solutions.

On individual reserves, risks to people and property have been assessed. Measures include clearing combustible scrub near wooden fences, using existing paths as natural firebreaks, grazing, removing cut vegetation and maintaining diverse habitats to reduce fuel loads and create varied microclimates. The Trust is also contributing to cross-organisation wildfire research. Public education and behaviour are also important, particularly because disposable barbecues and litter are major causes of urban grass fires.

Question 3: How did the Trust achieve its improved membership numbers?

- Unrestricted income received between approximately 2018 and 2020 was invested in professional face-to-face recruitment. Working with CF Fundraising, recruiters attended Trust sites, markets, fairs, parks and other locations with potentially receptive audiences.



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Face-to-face recruitment expanded significantly in 2021 and 2022. Although costly, it has been supported by regular member communications and strong stewardship, contributing to an estimated retention rate of around 87%. The next priority is to diversify recruitment through online and digital channels and reach more of the estimated 10% of Londoners considered likely supporters.

Break at 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm.

Light refreshments with sandwiches served outside.

Tony Richardson, new Chair of Trustees thanked those Trustees who had just stepped down, for their commitment and support over the years, with special thanks to his predecessor as Chair, Rufus Radcliffe and Dr Stephen Snaith, who as Hon. Secretary, had just run his last AGM.

4:00 pm Review of the Year – Sam Davenport, Senior Management Team, London Wildlife Trust

4:30 pm White Storks Project – Layla Mapemba, Senior Species Recovery Officer, London Wildlife Trust

5:00 pm Reserve closed