

**MINUTES OF THE PRESTWOOD NATURE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 1 NOVEMBER 2022**

Council members: Vanessa Rickett (Chair); Marieke Bosman (General Secretary); Helen Matthews (Treasurer); Julie Hopton; Anne Evans; Peta Sawyer; Karen van Oostrum; Alice Griffiths; Chris Jolly and Catherine Bunting.

In attendance: 39 members were in attendance.

Talk

The Chair thanked John Morris for his very interesting talk by on 'What makes Chiltern woodlands special.'

Prestwood Nature Annual General Meeting

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Peta Sawyer, George Lewis, Christine Lewis, Karen van Oostrum, Emma Plunket, Sylvia Bennett, Ted Hedley, Jeanette Hedley, Felicity Palmer, David Hillas, Tina Hillas, Kay Roberts, Lloyd Roberts, John Obee, Valerie Obee

2. Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2021 AGM which had been circulated with the notice of the meeting were agreed and signed as correct without objection.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Annual accounts to 31 March 2022

The accounts were prepared by Helen Matthews, the Treasurer, and examined and agreed by the independent examiner, Steve Adkins, and circulated to members before the meeting. Income during the year was £1003.83. Expenditure was £694.59, which was relatively low as a consequence of the previous Covid situation and some bills for recent site work still being outstanding. The balance at the end of the year was £6919.49 which was a healthy situation for the charity. It was hoped that more work for nature would be done with these funds in the coming year. The accounts were accepted by the meeting.

5. Nomination of Steve Adkins as examiner of the 2022/23 accounts

Prestwood Nature is grateful to Steve Adkins who once again agreed to act as independent examiner of the accounts. He was proposed by Jenny Smith and seconded by Frank Fermor. Carried by the meeting.

6. Accept Annual Report for 2021/22

The Annual Report of Prestwood Nature's work over 2021/22 had been circulated prior to the meeting and was proposed for acceptance by Tony Marlow and seconded by Chris Jolly. Carried by the meeting.

7. Resolution to align membership and financial year

A proposal had been made to align the membership with the financial year, so that both started on 1 April and ended on 31 March. It was further proposed that for the first year of this new system memberships would rise to £10, covering a transitional 15 month period.

The resolution to amend clauses 6 and 7 of the constitution to align the membership years accordingly was proposed by Christopher Black and seconded by Helen Bartington and voted on unanimously by all members present.

The resolution for the transitional 15-month arrangement to be put in place was proposed by Jonathan Margetts and seconded by David Wildman.

The resolution to increase the membership fee to £10 to cover the 15-month period 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2024 was proposed by Billie Hendry-Hughes and seconded by Hilary Tyrrell.

All three resolutions were carried by the meeting.

8. Current Chair's address

Vanessa Rickett, the outgoing Chair, gave a short speech describing her work with Prestwood Nature and noted achievements in previous years. She made clear that none of this would have happened without the support from members and volunteers, whom she thanked.

9. Presentation of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service plaque

Prestwood Nature was given the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2010. Each year the plaque is presented to one member who has given specific service to the charity. This year the award was presented to Jenny Smith; she has been involved in Prestwood Nature for almost 20 years including as Membership Secretary and General Secretary, as well as a work party volunteer and as an active member, for which the Chair and members expressed their appreciation.

10. Election of Chair

Helen Matthews was proposed as new Chair by Vanessa Rickett and seconded by Alice Griffiths. Carried by the meeting.

11. Handover to new Chair

Vanessa introduced Helen Matthews and thanked her for taking on the role of Chair. Helen in turn thanked Vanessa for her years of service.

12. Election of Officers – Treasurer

Anne Evans was proposed as Treasurer by Vanessa Rickett and seconded by Helen Matthews. Carried by the meeting.

13. Election of General Members

James Appleby was proposed as a General Member by Karen van Oostrum and seconded by Anne Evans.

Christopher Black was proposed as a General Member by Catherine Bunting and seconded by Marieke Bosman.

Billie Hendry- Hughes was proposed as a General Member by Helen Matthews and seconded by Marieke Bosman.

Emma Plunket was proposed as a General Member by Marieke Bosman and seconded by Vanessa Rickett. All proposed General Members were carried by the meeting.

Previous General Members who had stood down (Julie Hopton, Peta Sawyer and Chris Jolly) were thanked for their contributions.

14. Any other business

The 2023 AGM would be held on 6 November 2023. A charity bazaar was due to be held in Prestwood on 5 November 2022 and members were encouraged to come and show their support for Prestwood Nature. A fungi foray might take place on Saturday 5 November 2022 and if so, an email would be sent out beforehand.

15. Closing address by new Chair

Helen Matthews, the new Chair, addressed the members. She noted that in 2023 Prestwood Nature would be 20 years old and that this was a good time to reflect on past achievements and to consider what could be learned from these and what might be further developed for the future. She was keen to engage members in this process.

The Chair closed the meeting.