Conservation Group for the Prestwood Region
Including Great Missenden, the Hampdens,
the Kingshills, North Dean and Speen
www.prestwoodnature.org

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

MINUTES OF THE PRESTWOOD NATURE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 6 NOVEMBER 2023

Council members: Helen Matthews (Chair); Marieke Bosman (General Secretary); Anne Evans (Treasurer); Karen van Oostrum; Alice Griffiths; James Appleby; Christopher Black; and Catherine Bunting.

In attendance: 32 members were in attendance.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from David and Tina Hillas, John and Valerie Obee, Frank and Vanessa Rickett, Chris Jolly, George and Christine Lewis, Peter Gutteridge, Brenda Mobbs, Helen Bartington and Paul Day.

2. **Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the 2022 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 2023**

The accounts were prepared by Anne Evans, the Treasurer, and examined and agreed by the independent examiner, Steve Adkins, and circulated to members before the meeting. Income during the year was £1,275. Expenditure was £931.55. The balance at the end of the year was £6568.64. Given the healthy balance of the books there was no need to increase the membership fee. The accounts were accepted by the meeting as proposed by Trish Mallet and seconded by Jenny Smith.

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 2023/24 accounts. He was proposed by Paul Heath and seconded by Karen van Oostrum. Carried by the meeting.

6. **Accept Annual Report for 2022/23**

The Annual Report of Prestwood Nature's work over 2022/23 had been circulated prior to the meeting and was proposed for acceptance by James Appleby and seconded by Christopher Black. Carried by the meeting.

The Chair noted that Sheepwash was an ongoing concern due to vandalism and that she was looking into ways to resolve this situation. This included the need to find someone to lead the management of Sheepwash.

7. **Resolution to replace membership secretary post with vice-chair post**

A proposal had been made to replace the now largely redundant Membership Secretary post with one of Vice-Chair in the constitution. The Vice-Chair would be elected at the 2024 AGM, but might be co-opted if a suitable candidate was found in the interim. The resolution was proposed by Karen van Oostrum and seconded by Jenny Smith and voted on unanimously by all members present.

8. **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 with heartfelt thanks to Hazel and Colin Tyler, who have done a great deal of work at Boug's and for Prestwood Nature generally over the years, including wonderful photography of nature.

9. **Election of General Members**

There were no new members to elect as no nominations had been received.

10. **Any other business**

There was no other business.

11. **Closing address by new Chair**

The Chair did not give a closing address as the rest of the meeting was dedicated to presenting celebrating the 20 year history of Prestwood Nature by looking back at past work and discussing plans for the future.

The Chair closed the meeting.