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 5 NOVEMBER 2024

Council members: Marieke Bosman (General Secretary); Anne Evans (Treasurer);

Karen van Oostrum; Alice Griffiths; James Appleby; and Catherine Bunting.

In attendance: 20 members were in attendance.

The meeting was preceded by a presentation on regenerative farming in the Chilterns from Nick Marriner of the Chilterns National Landscape, and an overview of Prestwood Nature's activities from October 2023 to September 2024, from Karen van Oostrum .

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Helen Matthews, John and Valerie Obee, Chris Carr, Ted and Jeanette Headley and Lloyd Roberts. The meeting was chaired by Karen van Oostrum in absence of the Chair due to medical circumstances.

2. **Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the 2023 AGM which had been circulated with the notice of the meeting were agreed and signed as correct without objection as proposed by Tony Marlow and seconded by Chris Jolly.

3. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

4. **Annual accounts to 31 March 2024**

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 £6084.99. Expenditure was £3,784.40. The balance at the end of the year was £8,869.03. Mention was made of two large donations received. It was also reported that an interim distribution of a legacy from a former member was made in April 2024. That would appear in the accounts for 2024/25, as would the expenditure for the Pollinator Friendly Garden interpretation board. The accounts were accepted by the meeting as proposed by Kay Roberts and seconded by Jenny Smith.

5. **Nomination of Steve Adkins as examiner of the 2024/25 accounts**

Prestwood Nature is grateful to Steve Adkins who once again agreed to act as independent examiner of the 2024/25 accounts. He was proposed by Colin Tyler and seconded by Tony Marlow. Carried by the meeting.

6. **Accept Annual Report for 2023/24**

The Annual Report of Prestwood Nature's work over 2023/24 had been circulated prior to the meeting and was proposed for acceptance by Alice Griffiths and seconded by Karen van Oostrum. Carried by the meeting.

7. **Proposal to introduce a small grants scheme**

A proposal had been made to create a small grants scheme to support people needing training or materials they needed but could not afford to support nature in the Prestwood area. There was significant interest in the proposal from the members, and a useful discussion. Members approved of the scheme and said it was a good way to support nature in the area, increase the profile of Prestwood Nature and use the healthy bank balance. They felt it would be best to make requirements as simple as possible ie not to require them to do any work for Prestwood Nature. The proposal was proposed by Frank Rickett and seconded by James Appleby.

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 Vanessa Rickett, who served two terms as membership secretary and then two terms as Chair, including during the difficult Covid lockdown period.

9. **Election of Officers and General Members**

Thanks were extended to Anne Evans (Treasurer), Christopher Black (General Member) and Marieke Bosman (General Secretary) who were standing down.

Tony Marlow was appointed Treasurer, nominated by Karen van Oostrum and Helen Matthews. Frances Rawle was appointed General Secretary, nominated by Alice Griffiths and Helen Matthews. Karen van Oostrum was re-appointed as General Member nominated by Hazel Tyler and Jenny Smith. Alice Griffiths was re-appointed General Member nominated by Jenny Smith and Chris Jolly. Catherine Bunting was re-appointed General Member nominated by Hazel Tyler and Helen Matthews. Carried by the meeting.

10. **Any other business**

There was no other business.

11. **Closing address by Chair**

The interim Chair thanked all volunteers, members and Council members for their hard work for Prestwood Nature. She explained that Prestwood Nature had been well represented at the launch of the new Prestwood Community Association on 29 October and that there

was interest in the Association taking on Sheepwash as a potential community project, given that it was too complicated a project to manage for Prestwood Nature.

The Chair closed the meeting.