**MINUTES OF THE PRESTWOOD NATURE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,**

**HELD ON 10TH NOVEMBER 2025 AT PRESTWOOD VILLAGE HALL**

**Council members:** Helen Matthews (Chair); Frances Rawle (General Secretary); Tony Marlow (Treasurer); Karen van Oostrum; Alice Griffiths; and James Appleby

In attendance: 35 members were in attendance

The meeting was preceded by a presentation about work to conserve owl and kestrel populations in Buckinghamshire by Mike Collard from the Bucks Owl and Raptor Group, and an overview of Prestwood Nature's activities from October 2024 to September 2025 from Karen van Oostrum, Alice Griffiths and Anne Evans.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Ruth Borthwick, Marieke Bosman, Gill Cornelius, Paul Heath, Tina Hillas, Trish Mallett, Adrian Porter, Anne Radford and Kay Roberts.

2. **Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the 2024 AGM had been circulated with the notice of the meeting. They were agreed and signed as correct without any objections, as proposed by Tony Marlow and seconded by James Appleby.

3. **Matters arising**

The chair reported that the new small grant scheme, agreed at the last AGM, had been advertised. There had been a number of expressions of interest but no full applications had yet been received. It was hoped that the Council would be able to award the first grant soon.

4. **Annual Accounts to 31st March 2025**

The accounts for 2024/25 were prepared by the Treasurer Tony Marlow and examined and agreed by the Independent Examiner Steve Adkins. They had been circulated to members before the meeting. Tony Marlow explained that Prestwood Nature is in a healthy financial position. Income during the year was £5256.38, which included over £2000 as the first installment of a generous legacy from Patricia Strugnell, a former Prestwood Nature volunteer. Expenditure for the year was £4,232.79, which included the new interpretation board at the Pollinator Friendly Garden and new furniture at Bougs Meadow as major items. Funds carried forward to the 25/26 financial year were £9892.62. The accounts were accepted by the meeting, as proposed by John Obee and seconded by Karen van Oostrum.

Tony Marlow thanked Steve Adkins and presented him with a gift on behalf of Prestwood Nature.

**5. Nomination of Steve Adkins as independent examiner of the 2025/26 accounts**

Prestwood Nature is very grateful to Steve Adkins who has once again agreed to act as independent examiner of the 2025/26 accounts. He was proposed by Tony Marlow and seconded by Chris Jolly. Carried by the meeting.

**6. Accept Annual report for 2024/25**

The Annual Report of Prestwood Nature's work over 2024/25 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chair gave an update on membership, which currently stood at 90 households and 174 members. The report was proposed for acceptance by James Appleby and seconded by Alice Griffiths. Carried by the meeting.

**7. Presentation of the Queens Award**

Prestwood Nature was given the Queen's award for Voluntary Service in 2010. Each year the Plaque and certificate are presented to one member who has given specific service to the charity. This year the award was given to Anne Evans in recognition of her work championing wildlife recording, including taking over leadership and organisation of the Butterfly Transect in 2021 and setting up the Prestwood Nature activity on iRecord, as well as her service on the Council as Treasurer and her initiative to produce beautiful cards using her own nature photographs to raise funds for Prestwood Nature..

**8. Election of Officers and General Members of Council**

Helen Matthews informed members that she was stepping down as Chair after three years in the role and seven years on the Council. No nominations had been received for the Chair or the Vice Chair position, which would therefore remain vacant.

Thanks were extended to Catherine Bunting, who had recently stood down as a general member of Council, particularly for her help in liaising with the Parish Council.

James Appleby was re-appointed as a general member, proposed by Helen Matthews and seconded by Frances Rawle. Nick Hardy was appointed as a general member, proposed by Alice Griffiths and seconded by Helen Matthews.

**9. Closing address by the Chair**

The Chair thanked all volunteers and Council members for their hard work for Prestwood Nature. She particularly thanked Paul Heath, who was stepping down after several years as leader of the Bougs Meadow Volunteer team and handing over this responsibility to Alice Griffiths. She encouraged people to volunteer for the initial Sheepwash Pond clear up work party on 22 November at 8.30, being organized jointly with the Prestwood Community Association.

Karen van Oostrum then formally thanked Helen Matthews for her 7 years service on Council and her leadership over her three years as Chair and presented her with flowers and a card.