Minutes of 64th Annual General Meeting

Dorset Wildlife Trust

Monday 1 December 2025 – 11am – 12.20pm
Brooklands Farm

In Attendance		Apologies
Mark Kibblewhite (Chair) (MK)	John Stobart (JS)	Roger Cole (RC)
Carol Kibblewhite (CK)	Leo Henley-Lock (LHL)	Ian Alexander (IA)
Akshay Sanghrajka (AS)	Lisbet Sherlock (LS)	Simon Goldsack (SG)
Andrew Pollard (AP)	Mike Balfour (MB)	Les Bunce (LB)
Anne Wheatcroft (AW)	Nigel Webb (NW)	
Brian Bleese (BB)	Lisa Upchurch (LU)	
Giles Pugh (GP)	Sara Thompson (ST)	
Imogen Davenport (ID)	Sue Patterson (SP)	
Isla Reynolds (IR)	Simon Goldsack (SG)	
Jim White (JW)	Will Parker (WP)	
Jo Davies (JD)	Sarah Pritchard (minutes)	
John Gaye (JG)		

Minutes of Annual General Meeting	
The (Outgoing) Chair of Trustees, Mark Kibblewhite, welcomed those in attendance at the 64th annual meeting of the Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT).	
1.	**Apologies** Noted and accepted, listed above.
2.	**Declarations of interest** None
3.	**Approval of the minutes of the last AGM** The minutes of the 63rd AGM held on 2nd December 2024 were approved. Proposed by GP, seconded by AW and accepted *nem.con.*
4.	**Commentary on Financial Statements** Head of Finance (ST) presented the consolidated results and balance sheet for Dorset Wildlife Trust and its trading subsidiary for the year ended 31 March 2025, which were approved by the Trustees at the 347th Council meeting on 1 September 2025. Overall surplus of approximately **£1.9 million**. Unrestricted surplus of approximately **£1.22 million**, largely attributable to legacy income. Restricted surplus of approximately **£681,000**, including funding related to: • Tadnall land acquisition. • Recognition of previously deferred income relating to St Leonards following a Section 106 agreement. Total reserves increased to just over **£27 million**.

	Total income for the year: **£7.3 million**. • Grant income: 41% • Legacy income: 22% • Membership subscriptions: 17% Total expenditure: **£5.4 million**. 80% of expenditure was spent on charitable activities. Free reserves increased from six months' coverage to nine months' coverage. Questions and discussions Clarification was sought regarding the accounting treatment of SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace) income. A member requested that future presentations include an expenditure breakdown by category (e.g., salaries, depreciation, contractor costs). It was explained that AGM accounts follow statutory financial reporting requirements rather than management accounting formats
5.	**Resolutions** *1.* THAT the annual audited accounts and reports for the financial year ended 31 March 2025 be received. Proposed by RH, seconded by AL and accepted *nem.con* 2. THAT the auditors (Moore South LLP) be appointed for the coming year. Proposed by AW, seconded by SP and accepted *nem.con* 3. To authorise the remuneration of the auditors. Proposed by SP, seconded by GP and accepted n*em.con* 4. THAT those persons standing for election as trustees, are duly elected and appointed, to take effect from the end of the AGM. Before proceeding to trustee elections, the Chair paid tribute to the late Tony Bates, acknowledging his significant contribution to Dorset Wildlife Trust over many years as Member, Trustee, Chair, President and Active supporter. Members observed a moment of reflection and appreciation for his service. Current Trustees Jo Davies, Anne Wheatcroft, Jim White, Simon Goldsack, John Stobart New Trustees Akshay Sanghrajka, Lisa Upchurch Proposed by MK, seconded by RH and accepted *nem.con* MK thanked all trustees for their support to the Trust.
6.	**Dorset Wildlife Trust: Review of the last year - Brian Bleese, Chief Executive**

	BB presented highlights from the year.
	
	Key Achievements
	• Volunteer numbers exceeded **700 registered volunteers**.
	• Membership maintained at approximately **27,000 members**, despite recruitment challenges.
	• Delivery of significant conservation projects including:
	  ○ Species Survival Fund programme
	  ○ Species Recovery Project
	  ○ Brownsea Island Fine Foundation Lookout
	  ○ Heathland restoration projects
	  ○ West Dorset Meadow Makers programme
	  ○ Wild Rivers project
	  ○ Beaver enclosure project progressing towards potential wild release
	• Over **21,000 volunteer hours** contributed.
	• Continued success of trainee programmes, with 97% of trainees progressing into employment within the sector.
	Future Priorities
	• Making more space for nature.
	• Improving organisational effectiveness.
	• South Coast marine conservation partnership.
	• Fundraising and financial sustainability.
	• Digital transformation and community engagement.
	• Net Zero ambitions and further carbon reduction.
	• Business development and income generation.
	Questions
	Questions were raised regarding:
	• The Arne Peninsula managed realignment project.
	• The impact of railway nationalisation on partnership work with South Western Railway.
	Responses clarified that Dorset Wildlife Trust is not directly involved in the Arne project and that it is too early to determine any impact from rail nationalisation.

7.	**Dorset Wildlife Trust: challenges and opportunities – Mark Kibblewhite Chair of Trustees** The Chair reflected on: • The increasing challenges posed by biodiversity loss and climate change. • The need to foster a stronger "culture of care" for nature and communities. • The importance of engaging a wider and more diverse audience beyond the Trust's traditional membership base. • Potential benefits of undertaking a county-wide listening exercise to better understand community needs. • The Trust's continuing strategic objectives, including habitat restoration, policy influence, and community engagement.
8.	**Any other business** Formal thanks were given to MK for his service as Chair.

	Members, trustees, and staff highlighted: his strategic leadership, strengthening of governance arrangements, development of a strong trustee team, support of the Chief Executive and staff, long-standing commitment to the Trust's mission. Brian also expressed appreciation for Mark's leadership and support throughout his tenure.

The meeting concluded with appreciation for the collective efforts of the team and a reminder of the Trust's mission to serve its members and the environment.