



Kent
Wildlife Trust

**67th Annual General Meeting of the
Members of Kent Wildlife Trust**

Company No: 00633098

Held in person at Tyland Barn, Chatham Road, Sandling ME14 3BD
and online via Zoom Webinar

on

Saturday 12th July 2025 at 10.30pm.

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

Present:

Chris West (trustee & Council Chair)

Evan Bowen-Jones (Chief Executive Officer)

Jon Kirkpatrick (trustee-elect)

Kiran Rayner (trustee)

Jane Ibbotson (trustee & Council Chair elect)

Alison Mings (trustee)

Nick Barter (trustee)

Other members attending online: 32

Other members attending in person: 17

Apologies received:

Rachel Hoey (trustee & Honorary Treasurer)

Tom Woolgar (trustee)

Roger Gale MP (member)

Susan Kang (member)

Iris Neel (member)

Jan Pritchard (member)

Liz Lowe (trustee)

Andrew Laing (member)

Dianna Hagerty (member)

Jan Mulrenan (member)

Issy Oakes (member)

1. Welcome from the Chair of Council, Dr Chris West	
AGM25.001	The Chair welcomed the members attending the 67 th Annual General Meeting of Kent Wildlife Trust. In addition to normal housekeeping matters, the following points were noted: [a] The meeting was being recorded. Anyone present in person who did not wish to appear on the recording should make themselves known to a member of staff. [b] More than 30 persons entitled to vote had joined the meeting. The meeting was

	<p>therefore quorate.</p> <p>[c] Resolutions would be put to a vote by a show of hands for those attending in person, and by a Zoom poll for those attending online. Resolutions would pass by a simple majority.</p> <p>[d] The Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements had been published to members on the KWT website in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>[e] Members had been invited to submit questions in advance which would be answered at the end of the formal business. Further questions could be submitted by pen and paper or via the Zoom Q&A function and would be answered within the published minutes of the meeting.</p> <p>[f] Technical problems should be made known to staff via the Zoom chat function.</p>
2. Minutes of the 66th AGM held on Saturday 20 July 2024	
AGM25.002	The minutes of the 66 th AGM held on Saturday 20 July 2024 were put to the members for confirmation. A vote to accept the minutes was held, and the minutes were confirmed as a true record with no corrections or amendments.
3. Presentation of the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the Year ended 31st December 2024.	
AGM25.003	Members received the Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 st December 2024, a copy of which had been published in advance on the Trust's website.
4.1 Chairman's annual report on the year	
AGM25.004	The Chair of Council, Dr Chris West, gave his annual report, the recording of which would be made available on the Trust's website.
4.2 Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024	
AGM25.005	The Honorary Treasurer, Rachel Hoey was unable to attend the meeting. In her place, Jane Ibbotson who was trustee and Chair of the Risk and Finance Committee presented the financial report, the recording of which would be made available on the Trust's website. The financial statements were consolidated Group statements and had been audited by the Trust's auditors BHP.
5. Appointment of auditors	
AGM25.006	Jane Ibbotson reported that the Risk and Finance Committee had reviewed the performance of the Trust's auditors BHP, who had been in post for five years. In compliance with Article 17.2 the Risk and Finance Committee had recommended to Council that BHP be reappointed for a further year. Council had accepted the recommendation and the reappointment duly approved. Members were not required to vote on the reappointment.

6. Retirement and Rotation of Trustees	
6.1 Trustees retiring by rotation and standing for re-election	
AGM25.007	<p>a] Rachel Hoey was retiring by rotation and standing for re-election having served a term of three years since her last election.</p> <p>b] A vote was held and Rachel was duly re-elected for a second term of office.</p>
6.2 New trustees – motion to elect Jon Kirkpatrick as a member of Council	
AGM25.008	<p>a] Jon Kirkpatrick, having been recruited via an open recruitment process, was proposed by trustees for election as a member of Council. Jon’s career background was in sustainability and environmental management across multiple sectors with the previous seven years spent at executive level. Jon had strong governance experience, with five years as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Forestry Stewardship Council UK.</p> <p>b] A vote was held and Jon was duly elected for his first term of office.</p>
6.3 Trustees retiring by rotation and not standing for re-election	
AGM25.009	<p>a] Chris West retired by rotation and did not stand for re-election having served the maximum term of office. Chris thanked members and trustees for the opportunity to play a role in the governance of the Trust and its journey to date.</p> <p>b] Chris announced that Council had confirmed Jane Ibbotson as its Chair-elect, to take office immediately after the AGM.</p>
7. Special Resolution to amend the Articles of Association	
AGM25.010	<p>a] Members received a Special Resolution to amend the Trust’s Articles of Association. The resolution proposed that the following amendment to paragraph 12.5 be approved and adopted in substitution for and to the exclusion of all previous versions of the Articles of Association of the Trust:</p> <p>Prior version: 12.5 The Council may at any time by resolution appoint a patron or patrons of the Trust, provided that there shall not be more than three patrons of the Trust at any one time. Patrons of the Trust shall not be members of the Council. The Council may appoint a President.</p> <p>As amended and proposed: 12.5 The Council may at any time by resolution appoint an Honorary President of the Trust. The President of the Trust shall not be a member of the Council.</p> <p>b] For the Special Resolution to pass, a majority of not less than 75% of the votes cast was required.</p>

	c] A vote was held and the Special Resolution was duly passed.
8. Report from the Chief Executive Officer	
AGM25.011	The Chief Executive Officer, Evan Bowen-Jones gave a presentation outlining some of the Trust's future plans, the recording of which would be made available on the Trust's website.
9. Membership support	
AGM25.012	<p>a] Sarah Jordan, Director of Fundraising and MarComms gave a short overview of how members could continue to support the Trust, including a new option for Life Membership, the Wilder Kent Patrons scheme, the reserves sponsorship scheme and gifts in wills.</p> <p>b] Particular thanks were offered to Catherine Hova, Melissa and Stephen Murdoch and Chris West as founding Wilder Kent Patrons.</p>
10. Questions from Members	
AGM25.013	<p>Four questions had been submitted by Members in advance:</p> <p>1. Grazing animals at Magpie Bottom (question submitted by Chris Towers) Is it your intention to graze cattle and sheep on Magpie Bottom Reserve in the bottom field again next spring? The decision to leave them on until the end of April meant that there were almost no cowslips and primroses and later instead of thousands of orchids as in previous years, only a few dozen survived uneaten.</p> <p>In response, the CEO explained that the Trust aimed to spring graze each meadow roughly once in every four to five years on rotation which did occasionally remove some spring flowers - many of which would reflower later in the season if the grazing wasn't excessive or prolonged. In an increasingly changeable climate it would be more and more difficult to guarantee the results that would be achieved with a certain grazing regime. On smaller sites where the Trust was locked into a more prescriptive form of management there would be winners and losers [in terms of species] and it would not be possible to guarantee what the site would look like in ten years. The grazing team did their best and there was evidence the approach was working, but the increasingly severe drought and rain events would impact what was seen on our reserves.</p> <p>2. Redundancies and cost-cutting, and volunteer newsletter (questions submitted by Geoff Hamilton)</p> <p>a] Last year KWT had to make redundancies and cut costs due to a shortfall in revenue. Could it be explained how this shortfall happened and what steps have been taken to ensure the Trust does not experience such unexpected events again?</p> <p>In response, the CEO explained that unfortunately during the year £1m of expected income for the delivery of biodiversity net gain at Queendown Warren had fallen through when the general election was called. The agreement had been at pre-contract stage with a government-owned,</p>

	<p>arm’s-length agency and was halted unexpectedly due to a sudden spending review. This was an illustration of the challenging times the Trust was operating in with regular changes of government and environmental policy. It had also occurred in a year when the Trust was investing heavily in other income-generating activity across the Group and the timing was unfortunate. The decision to make redundancies was not one that anyone wanted to make but it had to be made in the best interests of the business. Other charities were having to take similar and more severe action and although it could not be guaranteed that it would not happen again in the future, the Trust’s management would do its utmost to avoid this.</p> <p>b] Many volunteers are not receiving the regular volunteer newsletter, yet they have received it in the past. Can you assure us that there is a proper, single and secure volunteer database that is up to date with volunteers’ details and their mailing preferences, and there is sufficient resource applied to keep details up to date and keep volunteers informed.</p> <p>In response the CEO noted that there had been some issues with the newsletter. These were being actively resolved by reviewing and consolidating all volunteer data into the new Customer Relationship Manager, Raiser’s Edge, led by our CRM Manager. The aim was to restore consistent volunteer communications as quickly as possible.</p> <p>3. Loss of insects (question submitted by Martin Selby) The loss of insects ripples down the food chain. It appears that this loss is happening globally, not only here in the UK. What can the Trust do to increase awareness of this and hopefully to spark some action to address it?</p> <p>In response, the CEO noted that the Trust was taking a lot of action on this issue which was broader than anything in the Trust’s sole control. In partnership with Buglife the Trust ran the Bugs Matter citizen science survey of flying insect abundance. The survey had 10,000 registered users and had been expanded to the Republic of Ireland, and likely to France during 2026, supported by Amazon Web Services Imagine Grant Award.</p> <p>Each year, the survey reported on the percentage change in the number of insect splats on number plates and reached national and international audiences through news articles, social media, television and radio. For the past two years, the survey had partnered with Openreach, owners of the UK’s second-largest vehicle fleet. David Attenborough had also referenced the figures produced by the survey at the beginning of the BBC Wild Isles programme which prompted a parliamentary inquiry into insect decline and food security.</p> <p>To address this problem, it was vital to protect 30% of land and sea for nature, which would also have the co-benefit of supporting food security and climate change resilience. Members were encouraged to take part in the survey and continue to lobby MPs and support the Trust’s work to get more land under nature-positive management.</p>
	<p>11. Closing remarks, retiring Chair of Council, Dr Chris West</p>
<p>AGM25.014</p>	<p>The retiring Chair of Council gave his closing remarks and gave his thanks to those attending. Thanks were offered to those who facilitated the meeting to be held online and enable more members to join the proceedings. Special thanks were given to the staff who continued to work</p>

	hard through very challenging times and to the volunteers including trustees past and present for giving huge amounts of time for the benefit of the Trust. Equally important were the Trust's supportive partners including but not limited to the Wildwood Trust and English Heritage. The formal business was concluded and the meeting was closed.