

Lavell's Wetland Trust

AGM

Charity Number: 1176960

Earley St Peter's Church Hall on Tuesday 18th June 2019 at 7.30 pm

Present: Fraser Cottington (Chairman), Jane Campbell (Secretary), Les Blundell, Renton Righelato, Ron Bryant, Bob Bennett, Peter Scudamore, and 25 other members.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Phil Kinch, Simon Bartlam, Bridget Gurney, Gray Burfoot, Irene Gilder, Pat Svensen, Shaw Edwards, Janet Boakes, Liz Crathorne, Philip Hayman, Ralph Watts, Brian Clews, Liz and Rob Brown, Jon Cole, Tim James and Trevor Guyatt.

2. **Minutes from FOLL AGM 2018:** The minutes of the final FOLL AGM held on January 16th 2018 have been publicly available on the FOLL website for more than a year and no comments have been received. No formal approval was required.

3. 2018 Reports

1. **Treasurer's Report:** In Phil Kinch's absence Les Blundell presented the treasurer's report and highlighted points as follows:

- The accounts reflect the decision of the FOLL Extraordinary General Meeting last July at which the members agreed to transfer all FOLL assets & liabilities to LWT. A total of £30,303.00 was transferred representing the cash assets held by FOLL at 1st August 2018.
- LWT is a new charity & started operating part way through the financial year. As such, the accounts only show the analysis of LWT receipts & payments after that date so the most significant thing to note is that LWT had assets of £29,600 at the 31st December.
- The trustees have agreed that LWT would have a similar reserves policy as FOLL and should retain c. £9,000 as reserves in case of unforeseen events and costs.
- LWT received £660 as a result of fund raising during the year by Giuliana Sinclair to fund owl box(es).
- A healthy sum – around £18,000 – was available at the start of this year to fund the costs associated with taking on Lea Farm Lake as well as new projects.
- The outstanding Gift Aid claim for 2018 (c. £200) for LWT (1st August to 31st December) has now been submitted to HMRC. The £572 shown in the accounts relates to FOLL for 1st January to 31st July.
- Subscription income has increased.
- Donations include both cash donations and donations "in kind" by members – we are very grateful for both. Underlying donations by members is about the same – we received two "one-off" donations of £500 each in 2017.
- Bird News is proving very popular with more members subscribing to it.
- Insurance costs have increased because of Lea Farm.
- Bird food – two large purchases in 2017 including one at the end of the year which lasted for much of 2018. We made only two small purchases in the year. Costs will be higher again in 2019.
- Work party costs included the cost of a big gravel purchase for Lea Farm (£367).

- LWT set-up – expert legal advice was needed to set up LWT. The requirements for a CIO are more complex and we did not have all the expertise that we needed.
- Lavell’s Lake project costs totalled £15,218 to the end of 2018. Some further costs (e.g. fencing, ground levelling) are required to complete the project but it will be delivered within the budget set. This is due mainly to Dinton Pastures CS doing much more tree work that was initially envisaged – our great thanks to Simon & his team. Thanks also to members who donated materials we needed.

Ron Bryant proposed that the accounts were accepted and Caroline Turner seconded this. The accounts were accepted by the meeting.

LWT thanked member Delia Allott, a professional accountant who carried out an independent examination of the accounts.

2. Membership Report: Les Blundell reported the following:

- Once again membership has increased with family memberships becoming more numerous.
- Most new members join the bird news service.
- Members joining by cheque, cash and bank transfer mostly give donations. It was noted there is a small transaction fee for PayPal.

3. Chairman’s Report: This was sent to all members of the group in advance of the meeting. Fraser highlighted the following:

- Ron Bryant now owns Lea Farm Gravel Pit and legal process is underway to transfer it to LWT in trust to be managed as a nature reserve forever.
- The Network Rail Grant, (if EA and planning applications are successful) will provide many improved habitats.
- New hides are being specified and LWT will begin an appeal to fund raise after EA consent. One donor has already stated their intention to make a significant contribution and a Microsoft matched funding scheme will be investigated.
- The WBC public consultation for a cycle path ‘Greenway’ past Lavell’s and Lea Farm will start in late summer. LWT will object but if a compulsory purchase is made will request as much compensation as possible.
- Frasers’ new role will be ‘Chief Visionary Officer’ which will include:
 - Engaging with families by providing a suitable welcome pack and organised, chargeable events
 - Improving marketing & social media by developing the website with webcam feeds and using Twitter to better effect by posting videos.
 - Fund raising initiatives including new grant opportunities, appeals, involving schools, corporate volunteer days, ‘tin shaking’ etc.
 - Increasing membership with a target of 1,000 by 2022.

4. Election of Officers

LWT’s constitution requires all trustees to stand down at this first AGM.

Trustees were elected as follows:

Chair: Jane Campbell elected 2019, proposed by Renton Righelato, seconded by Sue Charnley
Secretary: Caroline Turner, elected 2019, proposed by Jane Campbell, seconded by Fraser Cottington
Treasurer: Phil Kinch, elected 2019, proposed by Fraser Cottington, seconded by Bob Bennett
Membership Secretary: Les Blundell, elected 2019, proposed by Jane Campbell, seconded by Andy Stickland
Chief Visionary Officer: Fraser Cottington, elected 2019, proposed by Les Blundell, seconded by Ron Bryant
Ron Bryant, elected 2019, proposed by Renton Righelato, seconded by Fraser Cottington
Renton Righelato, elected 2019, proposed by Bob Bennett, seconded by Tim Alexander

Elected Committee Members

Bob Bennett, (elected 2019)
Peter Scudamore, (elected 2019)

A vote of thanks was proposed to Fraser for his many years as chair of FOLL and LWT. His continued enthusiasm, hard work and commitment is appreciated.

Refreshments and a very enjoyable and informative talk by Colin Wilson on 'Saving our Amazing Swifts' followed the AGM.

LWT's AGM 2020 is at 7.30pm on Tuesday June 16th, venue to be confirmed.

Attendees

Jane Campbell

Sue Charnley

Bob Bennett

Les Blundell

Peter Scudamore

Geoff Emmett

Renton Righelato

Ron Bryant

Fraser Cottingham

Sheila Walker

Jenny Vaughan

Andy Stickland

Jerry Peters

Mike Bilton

Roger Stansfield

Bruce Irvine

Nick Kighley

Colin Wilson

Andy Tomezynski

Graham Hammond

Martyn Hammond

David Noble

Jack Jones

Julie Jones

Angela Gunn

Sue White

Caroline Turner

Vanessa Forster

Laurence Forster

Tim Alexander

Gail Ditchfield

Paul Temple

Peter Ralph