



Registered Charity: 1176960

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Tuesday 16 June 2026 | Earley St Peter's Church Hall

Present: Fraser Cottington (Chief Visionary Officer), Peter Scudamore (Treasurer), Ella Wheeler (Committee Member), plus 23 members.

Minutes

Item no.	Minutes
01.	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from: Jane Campbell (Chair), Angela Gunn (Secretary), Keith Boseley (Committee Member) and nine members. It was also noted that Jasmine Huges and Roger Powell have stepped down as committee members since the previous AGM.
02.	Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting (AGM) The previous (seventh) AGM was held on Tuesday 17 June 2025. The minutes have been publicly available on the LWT website since shortly after the meeting and were circulated to all members. No comments were received. Formal acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Andy Stickland and seconded by Keith Seymour.
03.	Treasurer's Report (Prepared and delivered by Peter Scudamore, Treasurer) An overview of the accounts for the current year was given. Key expenditure has been a) the delivery of the new hide at Lea Farm Lake and b) the completion of the last of two long-term projects, also at Lea Farm Lake and funded through the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE), the latter of which has been spread across several financial years. This sits alongside the usual expenditure on insurance, software subscriptions, events and bank charges.

	Funding was received from the Berkshire Ornithological Club (BOC) for an additional tern raft. The total cost of the new hide is estimated to be £20,000 but is likely to marginally exceed estimate. However, income over the current financial year is adequate to cover this. Overall LWT's accounts are healthy with strong reserve and maintenance funds.
04.	Membership Report (prepared by Angela Gunn, Secretary) Membership numbers at the end of the year were 606. Some members, as always, chose not to renew but overall memberships continue to climb at a slow but steady rate. At the time of this AGM LWT has 587 members, which is 20 up on the same point in the previous year. This is evenly split between individual and family memberships. WhatsApp groups had previously been difficult to manage, but the option to sign up via Membermojo (LWT's membership portal) has supported this process and means that WhatsApp groups and Membermojo records are consistent.
05.	Election of Officers and Committee LWT's constitution requires a third of committee members to stand down annually at its AGM. In the current year, this has happened naturally following the recent resignations of committee members Roger Powell and Jasmine Hughes. It is therefore not necessary for any further committee members to retire at this AGM. One person was nominated and elected, proposed by Fraser Cottingham, seconded by Andy Stickland: Paul Munday: Elected as a committee member Jane Campbell has stated her intention to step down as Chair of LWT but will remain on the committee. The committee have selected Ella Wheeler to succeed Jane as Chair. This change does not require ratification at the AGM but is presented for information.

	Therefore, the officers and committee from June 2026 until June 2027 are: Trustees: Fraser Cottington (Chief Visionary Officer), Angela Gunn (Secretary) and Peter Scudamore (Treasurer), Jane Campbell (committee member) Committee: Keith Boseley, Paul Mundy, Ella Wheeler (Chair)
06.	Chair's Report (Prepared by Jane Campbell, Chair) The Chair's report is used to express the thanks of the Chair to all the people across the organisation who give generously of their time, support LWT with donations and take an on-going interest in the work that goes into maintaining and improving the reserve for its wildlife and its visitors. On this occasion, thanks were also given to Jane herself, who has successfully chaired the charity through another year and has been the glue holding everything together. Jane's tenacity and enthusiasm have remained impressive and she will be missed as Chair. The committee is delighted she is remaining as a member. The Chair wishes to thank: Fraser Cottington, particularly for his tireless work this year leading on the further development of the wetlands and the building of the new hide. Keith Boseley and the Tuesday group of volunteers who approach their work with enthusiasm and have an important influence on the habitats we are privileged to care for. Angela Gunn, LWT's secretary, who does enormous amounts of work behind the scenes to ensure our processes and memberships work in the way they should, and has helped a great deal in putting together this AGM. Peter Scudamore, LWT's treasurer, for his careful management of the LWT accounts and for the important contribution he makes by leading the public through the reserve on the monthly bird walk. Finally, and most importantly, thanks are given to all our volunteers, members, donors and supporters, without whom we would not be here celebrating this very successful year.
07.	Chief Visionary Officer's Report (Prepared and delivered by Fraser Cottington, CVO) Bird sightings from January to June were highlighted, including great white egret, osprey, Mediterranean gull, grasshopper warbler, curlew and wood sandpiper.

	There was also much breeding activity, including attempts from lapwing and oystercatcher. The rafts accommodated 16 pairs of black headed gull and eight pairs of common tern. Species of concern included kingfisher, goldfinch, bullfinch and chaffinch. Arrival/first sighting dates of species from 2016-2026 were highlighted and more information can be found in the slides on the LWT website. The CVO went on to confirm that the TOE 2.0 project has now been successfully delivered and that the new Mavis Bryant hide is expected to be completed at the end of the summer. Following completion of these projects, repairs to the existing hide at Lea Farm Lake (Ron's hide) will be prioritised. A new bird database and portal is being developed which will support the reporting of sightings and the collation of data more effectively than the current Bird News WhatsApp group. The CVO finished by making recommendations for changes to subscription rates, highlighting the success of the dawn chorus walk which recorded 67 species sightings, and confirming that he was planning to end his tenure at LWT around 2028. Everyone was thanked for their on-going support.
08.	Any Other Business No additional business was raised

The AGM was followed by refreshments and then an informative talk by Colin Wilson: **Nature Walks in the Blackwater Valley.**

The date of the next Annual General Meeting is **15 June 2027.**