

MINUTES

Meeting	76th Annual General Meeting
Date	25 October 2025
Time	2pm
Location	Whisby Education Centre

Present

Professor Libby John (Chair), Jo Woolley (Honorary Treasurer), 24 other members of the Trust, 7 members of staff and 233 members represented by proxy

Item

In advance of the Annual General Meeting, members had received a copy of the AGM Notice, a Proxy Form and the Annual Review for the year ending 31 March 2025.

Apologies were received from President Geoff Trinder, Alison Brownlow, Vin Fleming, John and Georgie Richardson, Stef and Mike Round, Chris Trinder, Gill Walsh, Kitty Hamilton and Sophie Harris (Trustees) and Tammy Smalley (Head of Conservation). A warm welcome was extended to Vice President Tim Sands.

The Chair took a moment to reflect on the deaths in 2024-25 of Vice President Brian Tear and Chair of Bourne Area Group David Sheppard.

Brian Tear was active in the Trust from the 1960s as a Trustee and appointed Chair of the Education and Public Relations Committee in 1969. Along with his wife Anne he founded the Lincoln Area Group and volunteered at the Lincoln Shop for 30 years. He was appointed deputy Chair in 1998 before being elevated to Vice President in 2013, a post he held until his death.

David had been a Trustee of Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust for over 30 years, including time as deputy Chair. He was Watch Leader for nearly 40 years, Area Group chair, convenor of Nature Reserves Development Team, chair of Conservation Forum, species recorder and so much more. He was a recipient of the President's Award (silver Lapwing) for outstanding contribution to the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

1. Minutes of the 75th AGM held on Saturday 26 October 2024

- 1.1 The minutes of the 75th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 26 October 2024 were approved.

2. Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2025

- 2.1 A summary of the Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2025 was set out in the Annual Review. The full Annual Report and Financial Statements had been available to members on request and were on the Trust's website.

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2.2	The Chair thanked Anita Quigley, the Trust's previous Chair, and Robert Oates and Cathy Sirett, two Trustees who had resigned during 2024-25.
2.3	The Chair gave a presentation on the year. Prof. John said the Trust had three strategic goals: • Nature in Lincolnshire is in recovery • People in Lincolnshire are taking action for nature and the climate • Nature in Lincolnshire is playing a central and valued role in addressing local and global challenges
2.4	The Trust purchased and extended a number of nature reserves throughout the year.
2.5	In early March, a shipping collision in the North Sea spilled huge quantities of plastic nurdles onto Lincolnshire and Norfolk beaches. Trust staff and volunteers worked tirelessly with partners to clear the pollution. Lincolnshire Beach Clean Volunteers were recognised by the Marsh Charitable Trust for their hard work.
2.6	The Chair thanked the staff and volunteers for their immense achievements over the last 12 months.
2.7	Looking ahead, the Chair expressed excitement about the Trust's acquisition of Hawthorpe Farm near Bourne, a site of over 200 acres.
2.8	The Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2025 was accepted.
3	Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025
3.1	Copies of the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 had been available to members on request and were on the Trust's website. An overview of the detail was in the Annual Review.
3.2	The Honorary Treasurer was pleased to report that the Trust was in a very robust financial position despite continuing economic pressures. Reserves remained strong and well placed to take the Trust into the next financial year. Income rose to £8.9m from £5.2m the previous year. This was supported by some very generous legacies and strong project delivery across the county. Unrestricted income grew by 55% and membership income increased by 2%. The Trust continued to have very good diversified income. Expenditure rose compared to the previous year. At the end of the financial year, the Trust had £20.9m in its reserves.
3.3	The Honorary Treasurer thanked the finance team for their excellent work throughout the year.
3.4	The audited Financial Statements were accepted.
4	Re-appointment of Wright Vigar Limited as Auditors for 2025-2026
4.1	It was resolved that Wright Vigar Limited be re-appointed as auditors for 2024-25. This followed a tendering process undertaken earlier in the year.
5	Election and re-election of Trustees (directors)
5.1	Members had been advised in advance of the meeting that:

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- four nominations were being recommended by the Board of Trustees for election: Georgie Fletcher, Rachel Herron, Grace Kidman and Mike Zehetmayr
- three nominations were being recommended by the Board of Trustees for re-election: Eve Crook, Sophie Harris and Sam Kemp.

5.2 All were approved.

The meeting closed at 2.30pm.



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Libby John – Chair