



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Ulster Wildlife Trust Limited
22 November 2017, Belfast Harbour Office**

1. Welcome and Introductions

Roy Ramsay, Chair of Ulster Wildlife, welcomed guests, members, staff and volunteers, to the meeting. A warm welcome was extended to Simon King, guest speaker. Mr Ramsay thanked the Harbour Commission for the use of their premises for the evening.

2. Chairman's Business including apologies

Apologies had been received in advance from a number of members (listed below) including Trustees, Ed Wright and Bob Brown. An apology was received on the evening from Mr Joe Furphy, President.

3. Minutes of the annual general meeting held on 5 October 2016

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the AGM held on 5 October 2016.

Proposal: To ratify the minutes of the annual general meeting held on 5 October 2016

Proposed: Peter Archdale

Seconded: Ken Brundle

Carried unanimously.

Minutes were signed.

4. Annual Accounts for the year ending March 2017

Ross Boyd (Honorary Treasurer) presented the accounts for 2016/17 and confirmed that they had been audited and certified as accurate by DNT Chartered Accountants. He reported that the statement of financial accounts for 2017 was consistent with 2016 with the presence of a modest surplus. Of the unrestricted income, the largest component of this (73%) came from membership subscriptions and gift aid with membership levels now sitting at approximately 12,000. He advised that restricted income was complex in nature with the trend in being ever larger project being delivered via conservation grants.

Mr Boyd invited questions from the members. One question was asked with respect to the difference between restricted and unrestricted funds. Mr Boyd advised that all funds received were required to be used for charitable purposes however restricted funds could only be used for a specified purpose or project.

Mr Boyd invited Mike Nangle, from DNT Chartered Accountants (independent auditors for Ulster Wildlife), to comment on the findings of the external audit. Mr Nangle stated the role of the external auditor was to examine the financial figures, system and governance procedures of the organisation, ensuring funds were well managed and that there were no areas of concern. He confirmed that he was happy to sign off the accounts as a true record and giving the organisation a clean bill of health. Mr Nangle concluded by thanking staff members for their assistance during the audit.

Proposal: To ratify the audited accounts for the 2016/2017 financial year

Proposed: Doris Noe

Seconded: Duggie Anderson

Carried unanimously.

5. Appointment of Auditor

Proposal: To appoint DNT as auditors for the Company for the period 2017/18

Proposed: Howard Platt

Seconded: Ross Boyd

Carried unanimously

The accounts were duly signed.

6. Trustees' Report for 2016/17

Jennifer Fulton, Chief Executive of Ulster Wildlife, began by thanking members, the Ulster Wildlife staff team and all the volunteers who assisted with many projects throughout the year. Particular thanks were given to Cristina Gomez Delapara, EVS Volunteer, who had prepared the film presentation highlighting the main achievements of the year. Mrs Fulton also paid tribute to Council members who act on a voluntary basis bringing a wide skill set to the organisation.

Corporate sponsors continue to be important to the charity's work through membership and partnerships and Mrs Fulton thanked them for their support.

A presentation followed illustrating the annual highlights for 2016-2017 under the charity's 5 strategic goals:-

Goal 1 - Inspire people to champion wildlife and value nature

- 7 trainees completed the final year of Skills for the Future Training programme.
- Supported 2 volunteer-led Wildlife Watch groups.
- Engaged with parents and children at over 85 public events to raise awareness of environmental issues.
- Within parks across Belfast, via the Parklife programme, continued to inspire and educate local children including 40 primary schools.
- Piloted an Environmental Leadership Programme with schools in Larne and Carrickfergus.
- Grassroots Challenge project engaged with 9 Special Schools, 19 Young Farmers clubs and Duke of Edinburgh leaders and young people promoting environmental awareness and skills.
- Provided workshops for Barn Owl and Red Squirrel Survey.
- Provided volunteering opportunities – with over 7500 hours given in support of conservation efforts.

Goal 2 – Protect and restore habitats and ecosystems through practical action and research

- Continued the management of 18 Nature reserves, including monitoring and surveying of species, scrub and invasive species control and conservation grazing on 5 reserves.
- 1st year of partnership with Ministry of Defence assisting with the management of lands at Magilligan and Ballykinler.
- Produced Conservation Action Plan for Black Bog sac in partnership with Northern Ireland Environment Agency
- Worked with AES UK and Ireland on Biodiversity Action plans for their sites at Kilroot and Ballylumford.
- Commenced Red Squirrel United Project in Spring 16 working with landowners, local community groups and Red Squirrel Groups.
- Save our Magnificent Meadow moved into final year. 15 roadside verges in Fermanagh are now under management as wildflower havens & provided advice on a network of species-rich grasslands.
- Be There for Barn Owl ended in Oct 16 although conservation work continues. Distributed 71 nest boxes to farmers, provided advice to 1300 landowners and 844 barn owl sightings mapped. 2 barn owl chicks ringed in the summer of 2016.

Goal 3 – Standing up for Nature – Influencing Government policy

- Sought protection of our seas as a member of the NI Marine Task Force.
- Welcomed designation of 4 new Marine Conservation Zones
- Engaged in community planning process in a number of Councils
- Worked with other government and NGOs to contribute to environmental protection policies post-Brexit.

Goal 4 – Promoting health and wellbeing through enjoyment of the natural world

- Continued to work with Caring Breaks on their allotment project
- Provided quality green spaces, access to nature reserves and guided walks to help people experience the natural world and improve their health and well-being.
- Embarked on a project to improve access and create an outdoor classroom at Bog Meadows.

Goal 5 – Grow our success and extend our reach

- Engaged with businesses through corporate memberships and corporate volunteering days.
- Reached 12,212 memberships at the end of March 2017.
- Landfill Communities Fund continued to distribute funds with a key project completed and launch – Diversity park in Portstewart.

Following the film presentation, Jennifer Fulton highlighted a number of plans for the future, for example, Interreg funding for bogs including Cuilcagh Mountain SAC, developing funding bids for phase 2 for the Magnificent Meadows Project and species action projects for marine and terrestrial species.

The full Trustee's report for 2016/17 can be found at <http://www.ulsterwildlife.org/about-us/publications>

Proposal: To ratify the Trustees' Report on the Company's activities for 2016/17

Proposed: Ben Matson

Seconded: Gillian Allen

Carried unanimously.

7. Election of Trustees

Roy Ramsay advised a nomination had been received from Dr Jim McAdam and this had been proposed and seconded in accordance with the Articles of Association.

Retiring and available for re-election: Ben Matson and Doris Noe.

Proposal: To elect persons as Charity Trustees to fill the vacancies arising: Dr Jim McAdam
and to accept the retirement of Trustees retiring by rotation and their re-election: Ben Matson and Doris Noe

Proposed: Ken Brundle

Seconded: Edith Finlay

Carried unanimously

Mr Ramsay welcomed Dr McAdam to the Ulster Wildlife Board of Trustees and handed over to Ken Brundle, Vice-Chair to continue proceedings he thanked Council for their support over the last 4 years and commented on the successful partnership between Council and staff including the Chief Executive.

8. Retirement of Trustees

Retiring having completed their term of office: Peter Archdale and Roy Ramsay

Ken Brundle thanked Roy and Peter for their valuable contributions to Council and wished both well in their retirement.

A presentation on behalf of the organisation was made to both Trustees.

Proposal: To accept the retirement of those members of the Board of Trustees who wish to retire: Peter Archdale and Roy Ramsay.

Proposed: Howard Platt

Seconded: Ben Matson

9. Members' Business

None raised.

10. Guest Speaker

Simon King – Naturalist, Author, Broadcaster and President Emeritus of the Wildlife Trusts.

Based on his latest book "Nature Watch" Simon spoke on how his interest in wildlife was forested during his younger years and showed how we too can talk to the animals and get first class views of wildlife as a result.

We learnt how to grunt like a fallow deer, hoot like an owl.

Simon enthralled us with his knowledge of animal tracks and signs, mimicry and observation skills, peppered with stores of wild encounters from the UK and beyond.

Simon concluded his presentation with the poem by DH Lawrence, 'The Triumph of the Machine.'

Following questions from the floor, Mr Brundle thanked Simon King for his entertaining presentation and made a presentation on behalf of the charity.

11. Closing Remarks

Ken Brundle thanked those present for attending, Simon King for his presentation, staff for organising the event and the Harbour Commission for use of the venue.

The AGM closed at 9.40 p.m.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

IN ATTENDANCE			APOLOGIES	
<u>Council members</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Guests/Staff</u>	<u>Council</u>	<u>Members</u>
Gillian Allen	Harriet Ainsworth	Stephen Aston	Bob Brown	Brian Black
Peter Archdale	Christopher Allen	Jo Aston	Lorraine McCourt	Hannah Ferguson
Ross Boyd	Philip Allen	Vickie Chambers	Ed Wright	Suzanne Harper
Ken Brundle	Duggie Anderson	Andy Croy	Joe Furphy – President	Lisa Jeffers
Edith Finlay	Lavinia Armstrong	Jennifer Fulton		Robin Lindsay
Craig McGuicken	Gail Barbour	Cristina Gomez Delapara	<u>Corporate Supporter</u>	Ann Mackie
Fiona McVicker	Charmine Beer	Andrew Gracey	Hugh Connolly	Michelle Magee
Ben Matson	Roy Blair	Ian Humphreys	Ronan McGrath	Raymond Magee
Doris Noe	Helen Blair	Nicky Lowry	Helen McKinney	Ann Morton
Howard Platt	Michael Brown	Noel McCullough	Fiacre O'Donnell	Osborne Morton
Roy Ramsay - Chair	Sean Browse	Rosalind McSparron		
	Chris Buckland	Dawn Miskelly	<u>Corporate Member</u>	<u>Staff</u>
	Veronica Buckland	Clare McMorrow	Jonathan King	Patrick Crothers
	Aaron Connor	Kelly Muldoon		Shelia Lyons
	Patricia Connor	Emma Mulholland		Anna Morton
	Cristina Crawley	Mike Nagel		Sharon Spratt
	Ian Cromie	Julie Parkinson		
	Peter Crossett	Gala Podgornik		
	Maimie Davis	Brian Ross		
	Alan Davis	Nina Schonberg		
	Audrey Derby	John Sherridan		
	Audery Derby - Guest	Sylvia Sherridan		
	Shirley Dunlop	Michael Stinson		
	Edwin Dunlop OBE	Ciaran Walsh		
	David Elliott	John Witchell		
	Alan Field			
	Ian Garner	<u>Corporate Member</u>		
	Laine Hamill	Charlene Jones		
	Don Hanley	Deborah Madden		
	Dr Anne Hardcastle			
	Darren Houston			
	Lindsey Houston			
	Lynn Hughes			
IN ATTENDANCE	<u>Members</u>			
Cont'd	Robert Hughes			
	Alan Ince			
	Maggie Irwin			
	Lauren Jackson			
	Elizabeth Jess			
	Sandra Johnstone			
	Justin Judge			
	Rachelle Keatley			
	Alistair Kennedy			
	Robin Kennedy			
	Paul Larmor			
	Jim Lowry			
	Rosemary Lyons			
	John Lyons			
	Jim McAdam			
	Geraldine McAdam			
	Margaret McAllister			

IN ATTENDANCE

Cont'd

Members

Kirsty McAnearney
Heather McAnearney
Penny McClean
Ruth McCoy
John McElroy
Gerard McGeehan
Nuala McGimpsey
Mark McGimpsey
Des McGuicken
Edward McKee
Esther McKee
Shirley McPeake
Pól Mac Cana
Mandy Magee
Brendan Magee
Jim Manley
Margaret Marshall
Michael Meharg
Judy Meharg
Chris Murphy
Tim Murphy
Robert Murray
Maureen Mawhinney
Philip Nye
Peter O'Halloran
Stephen Philips
Stephen Popplestone
Gillian Popplestone
Pat Ramsay
Irene Ross
Peter Ryan
Gemma Sandford
David Sandford
Louis Shawcross
Fiona Simpson
Roy Simpson
Majella Smart
Timothy Stanley
Sharon Stanley
Patricia Sterling
Ronald Surgenor
Pamela Todd
Peter Trimble
Sharon Trimble
Jess Webb
Dennis White
Maud Wilson
Stephen Wilson
Valeria Wilson
George Wright
Joan Wright