

Minutes of the 62nd Annual General Meeting of the North Wales Wildlife Trust

Saturday 8th November 2025, Parc Glasdir, Llanrwst

Those present were welcomed by Graeme Cotterill, who explained that due to the death of our President, Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas, we would need a Chair for the meeting. He proposed the NWWT Chair, Howard Davies and this was agreed nem con.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Gina Mills, Roger Thomas and Penny Radford

2. Minutes of the 61st Annual General Meeting held 9th November 2024

The minutes of the above meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate record of events. There were no matters arising. Agreed nem con

Proposed: Miriam Shepherd, Seconded Alex Lord

3. Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st March 2025

Howard Davies, Trustee and chair NWWT reported on the work of the Trust, beginning with a tribute to Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas, who died in February. Lord Elis Thomas led Plaid Cymru and was Llywydd of the Senedd until 2011. He gave enormous support to the NWWT as well as to the people, culture and language of Wales.

The NWWT manages 958 Ha over 36 reserves, has 1200 volunteers contributing 35,000 hours of work over the last year. Youth leadership is flourishing. Howard covered the establishment of Galwad and the importance of supporting farmers to aid nature recovery towards our 2030 30% target. Current work is being undertaken in peatland, woodland and sea grass restoration. He formally thanked the staff and especially Frances Cattenach, who will step down as CEO of the NWWT next year after 40 years of dedicated service.

Frances thanked her mentors and the many people who had given her generous help to support the work of the Trust and said what a huge privilege it was to be part of NWWT.

Catherine Duigan and Chris Wynne outlined NWWT policy on dogs, which was reviewed after last year's AGM. After explaining the rationale, NWWT will ask dog owners to keep dogs on leads, discourage dogs from entering water and pick up and remove dog waste. The signage will be improved. There is a position statement and advice on the web site.

4. Adoption of the Reports and Accounts, together with the Treasurer's and Auditor's Report for the year ended 31st March 2025

Treasurer Alex Lord presented the accounts, explaining that the total consolidated income, including trading subsidiaries Enfys Ecology and NWWT Trading, was £4 million in 2024/5. This had been higher in 2023/24, due to a large grant from Aviva towards the purchase of Bryn Ifan. The finances of Enfys Ecology are much improved, with £45k profit and increased turnover, whilst Trading is stable. There are just under 10,000 members and our membership income has increased year on year. The cash balance is healthy.

The above-mentioned reports and accounts, together with the Trustees' and Auditor's report, were adopted nem con

Proposed: James Robertson, Seconded Chris Brown

5. Special Resolution - Approval of our updated Articles of Association

The Charity Commission has granted formal consent under s198(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011 to amend the charity's objects to read:

2. Objects

1.1 The Trust's objects ("Objects") for which the Charity is established are for the benefit of the public:

- a) To advance, promote and further the conservation, maintenance, restoration and protection of:
 - (i) wildlife, their habitats and ecosystems.
 - (ii) places of zoological, botanical, geological, ecological or scientific interest or of natural beauty or landscape value.
- b) To advance the education of the public in relation to all aspects of a) above.
- c) To promote research and the dissemination of information in relation to all aspects of a) above.

The changes to the new Articles, including the revision to the Objects as listed above, were explained to the meeting by Howard Davies. The meeting was asked to approve the adoption of new Articles including the revision of the Objects.

Proposed: Ian Dunsire, Seconded Ian Wright

This motion was unanimously agreed with no abstentions or objections

6. Election of Council Members and Honorary Officers

No trustees have stood down and none are standing down at the end of their term. Alasdair Forman and Alex Lord have reached the end of their current term, but are willing to be re-elected. Urtha Felda and Megan Turner had been co-opted and are now standing for election. They introduced themselves to the meeting.

Urtha Felda- Proposed Kate Gibbs, Seconded Ffion Mitchell Langford. Elected nem con

Megan Turner - Proposed Alex Lord, Seconded Dan Bos. Elected nem con

Continuing Trustees Daniel Bos, Chris Brown, David Davies, Howard Davies, Catherine Duigan, Ian Dunsire, Ffion Mitchell-Langford, Gina Mills, Bridget Osborne

7. To re-appoint Williams Denton of Bangor as auditors to the Trust and to authorise Council to fix their remuneration

William Denton of Bangor were re-appointed as auditors to the Trust and the Board of Trustees were authorised to fix their remuneration. Both nem con

Proposed Ian Dunsire, Seconded Alex Lord

8. Volunteer Awards

The following were presented

NWWT Gold Badge : Colin Thomas

Volunteer of the Year 2024/25: Peter Scarle

Volunteer of the Year 2024/25: Richard Whitehurst (in absentia)

Volunteer Group of the Year: Brenig Osprey Project

9. Questions for CEO and Trustees

A question about sewage pollution of the Conwy was answered by Adrian Jones who explained that run off from drains and roads feeds into the sewage system, which becomes overwhelmed in heavy rain, but is then highly diluted as the river is in spate. The real concern is diffuse pollution from agricultural sources and Dŵr Cymru has no veto over new housing planning applications. Catherine Duigan (former NRW employee) suggested looking at the catchment management page on the NRW website. Save the Seas also has a database.

Joanna Robertson asked whether Galwad was able to give advice to farmers yet. Frances Cattnach explained that predicted funding from Welsh Government had been delayed, but Galwad are responding to requests.

Urtha Felda asked about the Trust approach to broadening diversity and Ffion Mitchell Langford, who co-chairs the EDI Working group with Dan Bos explained that an EDI action plan and roadmap have been approved and reserves are working on access.

Margaret Thomas asked about the increasing Himalayan Balsam along the Conwy. Adrian Jones discussed the ongoing Invasive species work. A toolkit is available for local action groups to use. A rust fungus has been tried and may reduce vigour.

Sian Turner asked about the level of research being undertaken, as research is one of the objects of the Trust. This is ongoing with the Himalayan Balsam rust and in other fields at citizen science level.

Jane Cherrett asked about properties on the Cors Goch reserve. Chris Wynne replied that Penllyn has been tenanted for several years and Bryn Golau is used as an activities base for groups such as Cymerch from Holyhead which enables adults with learning needs.

Mike Moseley asked about the future of the branch network of the Trust, as branches are struggling to attract committee members. Chris Baker has met representatives and is helping to develop community networks such as Gofod Glas.

10. Raising the profile of impact of the yellow legged (Asian) Hornet

Kipper Davies , a beekeeper, described the progress of the Asian hornet since it was first found in Bordeaux 10 years ago. It has now been identified in Runcorn and on Merseyside, but not, as yet, in Wales. It is particularly dangerous as the hornets will attack anyone within 5m of a nest and there have been several fatalities associated with hornet stings in Spain. The primary nest is low down in a hedge and the secondary nest up in a tree. Please notify nonnative@ceh.ac.uk or the Hornet Watch app if you spot any.

AOB

Briony Davies raised concern about increasing pollution from aviation fuel and its effect on fungi and harebells.