



REPORT AND RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024 OF THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY NETWORK TRUST

Company number 03963387 – Registered Charity Number 1082163

MINUTES

DATE: 21 NOVEMBER 2024

LOCATION: MERSEYSIDE MARITIME
MUSEUM, LIVERPOOL

TIME: 16:45 – 17:00

Chairperson: Pete Tomlin

Minutes: Sarah Hyslop

Company Secretary & CEO: Lisa Chilton

Trustees Present: Mandy Rudd, Terence Jagger, Dom Aslan, Alice Kershaw, Rob Cooke,

Pete Tomlin; Open remarks / Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone attending the AGM.

Trustee apologies for absence

Louise Li, Gail Hutton and Eleni Polychroniadou.

Minutes of the previous meeting

These were made available for viewing on the NBN Trust website <https://nbn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/AGM-2023-Minutes-Final.pdf>

No notifications of amendments were received and, as such, the minutes from last year's meeting were approved as a true record.

Pete Tomlin, Chair's Report

Eligible voting members in the room showed hands. We received 23 votes in advance of the meeting and have met the required quorate of 20.

The NBN Trust continues to grow and increase its impact. The Trust's mission is to 'make data work for nature' and in order to achieve this, the Trust has four strategic ambitions. The NBN Trust has made some fantastic progress against these ambitions. Below are some of the particular successes for 2023-2024.

Ambition 1: The NBN Atlas is the 'go to' place for sharing, finding and accessing UK biodiversity data.

- The NBN Trust welcomed six new data partners and added 45 new or updated datasets, contributing an additional 18 and a half million records to the NBN Atlas.
- Significant technical progress was made, including the Fit for the Future project and the NBN Atlas Accelerator Project, which aims to enhance the platforms value to the UK conservation community.

Ambition 2: Biodiversity data is providing the evidence needed for natures recovery

- The NBN Atlas saw over 3,300 new users and one billion species records downloaded in the year.
- The data was utilised in 310 peer reviewed scientific publications and four regional biodiversity reports.
- The Better Biodiversity Data Project engaged over 30 partner organisations to advance Scotland's biodiversity information infrastructure.

Ambition 3: Citizen science is valued, supported and expanded as a major source of biodiversity data.

- The iNaturalistUK community grew by 21,000 new observers, sharing over 1.3 million new wildlife records.
- The NBN Trust revamped its award scheme and partners in the National Education Nature Park to empower children and young people to make a positive difference to both their own and nature's future, with biodiversity data collection being part of this.
- The Trust also engaged inn research to understand recorder motivations and improve data collection efforts.

Ambition 4: The National Biodiversity Network is a well connected and highly collaborative community with a united voice on key issues.

- The NBN Trust's communication channels, including Network News and social media, saw increased engagement.
- The NBN Conference last years brought together 160 delegates in Edinburgh.
- The NBN Trust featured in prominent magazines like BBC Gardeners World and Computer Weekly.

Governance

The year 2023-24 was one of transition when it comes to the governance of the NBN Trust. Our previous Chairperson Neil Hodges stepped down at the end of his tenure, as did several other Trustees who came to the end of their terms on the board. In his time as Chairperson, Neil helped steer the NBN Trust through a period of change, including recruiting a new CEO, the Covid pandemic and the launch of the new strategy. We will miss his clear thinking and humour and thanks were given to Neil's time as Chairperson.

Thanks were also given to the other departing Trustees, all of whom made valuable contributions to the Charity through lending their experience, insight and drive to the work of the Trust.

We have also been very lucky to welcome some very experienced and dynamic new Trustees to the Board who bring insights from the finance, technology and environmental sectors.

Pete Tomlin has also been appointed by the Board to be Chairperson for a three year term, effective from this AGM.

Looking ahead

At last years conference the buzz words were ‘catastrophic success’. In other words, as we and our network succeed in sharing ever greater volumes of data, the challenge for the NBN Trust becomes one of resilience. How do we resource the effective scaling of data storage, analysis and sharing on a finite Charity income? How do we continue to meet the needs of our stakeholders, building new data services for our users, whilst ensuring that we build strong organisational and data foundations? These are the challenges that the refreshed board will take on alongside the NBN Trust staff.

Rob Cooke, Presentation of the Annual Financial Accounts

Rob Cooke stood in to give the annual financial accounts update in the absence of Louise Li who is the Chairperson of the Finance and Audit Committee.

The NBN Trust financial statements for 2023-2024 have been made available on the NBN website <https://nbn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/NBN-Final-Accounts-2024-30-8-24-1.pdf>

The financial accounts for the period 2023-24 have been officially approved by the Board of Trustees.

The NBN Trust is grateful to those who provided funding during the year. The accounts show that we are currently heavily biased in our restricted funding. The Finance and Audit Committee are committed to securing more unrestricted funding moving forward.

There is also the need to ensure we have full cost recovery in order to ensure that our core costs are adequately covered.

Ordinary Resolutions

A. Election of Auditors

The Board of Trustees recommend the appointment of Rogers Spencer as Accountants until further notice and that the trustees shall fix their remuneration.

B. That the changes made to the Articles are approved.

The Board of Trustees recommend the updates made to bring the terminology up to date with current practice and equality.

Voting

Members eligible to vote were notified in advance. Eligible members in attendance who did not vote online where given a voting slip by the NBN Trust team. There is only one vote per member organisation.

18 members were present in the room.

Voting

The NBN Trust Articles, revised in November 2018, state:

18. (1) *No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present.*

(2) *A quorum is:*

(a) 20 members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote upon the business to be conducted at the meeting

(3) *The authorised representative of a member organisation shall be counted in the quorum.*

The voting summary was as follows:

AGM Voting Resolution A	
Members eligible to vote	251
Votes received in person	19
Votes received via online form	23
Total number of votes received	42
% of membership voting	17%
Quorate (actual number)	20
In Favour	42
Proxy (Chair to vote on their behalf)	1
Abstain	0
Against	0

The resolution was passed.

AGM Voting Resolution B	
Members eligible to vote	251
Votes received in person	19
Votes received via online form	23
Total number of votes received	42
% of membership voting	17%
Quorate (actual number)	20
In Favour	42
Proxy (Chair to vote on their behalf)	1
Abstain	0
Against	0

The resolution was passed.