



REPORT AND RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022 OF THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY NETWORK TRUST

Company number 03963387 – Registered Charity Number 1082163

MINUTES

DATE: 9 NOVEMBER 2022

LOCATION: NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM,
LONDON

TIME: 13:25 – 13:40

Chair: Belinda Howell

Minutes: Sarah Hyslop

Company Secretary & CEO: Lisa Chilton

Trustees Present: Mandy Rudd, Wilma Harper, Terence Jagger, Matt Postles, Pete Tomlin

Belinda Howell; Open remarks / Welcome

Belinda Howell chaired the meeting in the absence of the NBN Chair, Neil Hodges. Wilma Harper covered the Treasurer report in Roddy Fairley's absence.

The Chair welcomed everyone attending the AGM. Eligible voting members in the room showed hands. We received 30 votes in advance of the meeting and have met the required quorate of 20.

Trustee apologies for absence

Neil Hodges, Roddy Fairley, David Slawson and Camilla Taylor

Minutes of the previous meeting

These were made available for viewing on the NBN website [here](#). No notifications of amendments were received and, as such, the minutes from last year's meeting were approved as a true record.

Belinda Howell, Chair's Report

Lisa Chilton, our CEO, has been with us for over a year now. Lisa brings 25 years of nature conservation, public engagement and fundraising experience. She set to her task with gusto, energy and passion, stabilising and strengthening the team. She has undertaken a flurry of stakeholder meetings and focused on an 18-month project to upgrade the NBN Atlas to be "fit for the future".

The new NBN strategy for 2022-2027 entitled 'Making Data Work For Nature' is now live and available on the NBN Trust website [here](#). It outlines four strategic ambitions:

1. The NBN Atlas is the 'go to' place for sharing finding and accessing UK biodiversity data
2. Biodiversity data provides the evidence for nature's recovery
3. Citizen science is valued and supported
4. NBN is a well-connected and a highly collaborative community.

We have published the 2021-2022 Annual Impact Report and this is now available for viewing electronically on the NBN website [here](#). This highlights our performance and impact across the four strategic ambitions outlined above during the 2021-2022 year, and is well worth reading.

The Chair thanked the NBN Trust team of eight, our members who sustain the NBN Trust and are our lifeblood without whom we would not exist, and those who create and share data on the NBN Atlas, some of whom will be recognised at the NBN Award ceremony which follows after the conference.

Wilma Harper, Presentation of the Annual Financial Accounts

The NBN Trust financial statements for 2021-22 have been made available on the NBN website [here](#). Members were notified of this via email on 31 October 2022.

The financial accounts for the period 2021-2022 have been officially approved by the Board of Trustees.

The key messages below include;

- Income total for 21/22 is almost the same as in 20/21
- After people, our largest expenditure is for hosting of the NBN Atlas and this totals >£80K per annum currently.
- The deficit in 2021-22 compared to the previous year, is attributable to expenditure rising by £20K. This is due to increasing workforce costs, in particular the NBN Atlas technical team.
- Our funding base is changing and will continue to do so. This spreads the risk but increases uncertainty. Looking to the current year and to next, we have developed a probability-based approach to income from grants and funding bids. This has given us confidence going forward of a balanced budget with adequate reserves.

Ordinary Resolutions

A. Election of Auditors

That Rogers Spencer is appointed Auditor of the Charity to act as such until further notice and that the Trustees be authorised to fix their remuneration.

Resolution:

Ordinary Resolution:

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

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 Summary 2022	
Members eligible to vote	267
Votes received in person	21
Votes received via online form	30
Total number of votes received	51
% of membership voting	19
Quorate (actual number)	20
In Favour	47
Proxy (Chair to vote on their behalf)	4
Abstain	0
Against	0

The resolution was passed.

Questions and answers

1. What is the reason for the withdrawal of some of the historic funding?

This has not been helped by austerity conditions that have prevailed across core government funders for some time. We are looking to bring the former funder back on board and strengthen relationships. The future funding model may look different to that we have had in the place. We need to demonstrate value for money and the reasons why governments need to fund our work. Broadening the funding base will give us some security.

Government funding will help us to lever additional and match funding from other grant funders; equally, philanthropic funding is often conditional on government continuing to fund at the current level or higher.