

- 1 The Secretary read the Notice of the Meeting.
- 2 The Secretary noted 2 apologies, together with proxy votes from 4 members. 13 Members attended the meeting.
- 3 The Secretary proposed the Trust Chair to Chair the AGM.
Proposer: Bryan Davies
Secunder: James Foreman
All agreed and Chris Bow was appointed Chair for the Meeting.
- 4 The Minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record of the meeting.
Proposer: Geoff Hale
Secunder: Bill French
Agreed by all in attendance and signed
- 5 The Chair highlighted some points from the Financial report and the Directors' report previously circulated.

It has been a challenging year compared to last:

- The dumping of commercial waste has had an impact in terms of significant costs for both the clean-up operation and the need for additional security measures. A height barrier at the entrance to the beet pad and drop down bollards at the Feoffees Field entrance have been installed to prevent further incursions.
- Persistent graffiti vandalism around the site was upsetting and diverted Ranger time on clean-up operations. The installation of temporary CCTV seems to have been effective in preventing further incidents. Pleasingly, the Trust received some significant donations to help rectify the graffiti and recently a Friend took it upon themselves to clean some signs at their own initiative.
- The impact of the closure of Haverhill Road in the autumn of last year was carefully monitored to assess the effect on car park takings. Perhaps surprisingly, this was not significant but it did allow the unintended benefit of being able to have a water supply fitted whilst the road was closed. This avoided the Trust having to bear the costs for the road closure itself. Haverhill Road is closed again currently and the impact will be monitored as before.
- Chalk Hill Down – Negotiations on the transfer of the land to the Trust are virtually complete and we are nearly at the point of taking ownership. The decision has been taken to sow the chalkland grass seed and this is expected to happen shortly. There were no questions or observations made.
- The Treasurer gave a brief summary of the accounts which have been approved by the Independent Examiner. The finances remain in good shape, although the surplus compared to last year is down from around £28,000 to £10,000. Income has reduced by about 7% and costs have increased by about 10%. The value of the investments increased by about £59,000 compared to a decrease last year of £47,476. The Trustees consider the financial position to be healthy with around £1.5 million reserves and cash of approximately £150,000 readily available to meet short, medium and long term needs. The total income of £145,357 was down 7%, which was wholly due to lower harvest receipts. Expenditure was up 5%, due in part to one-off costs such as the removal of commercial waste (£3,594), the water supply installation (£2,367), CCTV and legal fees. The latter, amounting to £5,564, were incurred in respect of the Chalk Hill land transfer and dealings with the Charity Commission relating to paying Trustees for services (eg in their capacity as a Ranger). Note - Trustees are not paid

for being Trustees. The costs were also impacted by the inclusion of a full year of the administrator's salary and, more generally, by high inflation.

- 6 The Treasurer (Chris Bow) commended that the meeting receive the Financial Statements and Report of Directors for the year ending 31st March 2024.

Proposer: John O'Boyle

Seconder: James Foreman

No Objections – All in favour – Statements and Report accepted

7. Resolution I to re-elect Bryan Davies as Director & Trustee

Proposer: Claire Beale

Seconder: John O'Boyle

No Objections – All in favour - Resolution Passed

8. Resolution II to re-elect Geoffrey Hale as Director & Trustee

Proposer: Kathleen Foreman

Seconder: Bill French

No Objections – All in favour - Resolution Passed

9. Resolution III to confirm the appointment of Jayne Merrick as Independent Examiner

Proposer: Geoffrey Hale

Seconder: John Coppendale

No Objections – All in favour - Resolution Passed

We confirm our thanks to Jayne Merrick for her work and support.

10. To deal with any other ordinary business of an Annual General Meeting.

- Haverhill Road Closure again– Discussion on the road closure and likely impact for the Trust. The Trust will monitor the potential income loss and consider the possibility of a financial claim against UK Power Networks.
- Chalk Hill – the Trustees will have lots of demand on their time with taking this on and hope to allow public access by 2027. The second tranche of land is expected to be transferred by December 2027 but we need to await the outcome of the Busway decision. Question and discussion on what the second tranche of land is – a strip of land kept back for the potential Busway - approximately 1/3rd of the land originally intended for the park under the Section 106 agreement.
- Chris Bow was thanked for all his work as both Treasurer and Chair over this last year.
- The Trustees were thanked for their dedication and work and in keeping the wonderful place going given the challenges this last year.

Present: Chris Bow, Kathleen Foreman, James Foreman, Sara Sayer, Claire Beale, Nick Beale, Bill French, Bryan Davies, John O'Boyle, John Coppendale, Mary Cooper, Ros Aveling, Geoff Hale,

The AGM meeting was followed by a short update and display on Chalk Hill.