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RE AGENDA ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE AGM 2017

**Minutes of the 55th Annual General Meeting of the Devon Wildlife Trust, held at Stover School, Stover, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 6QG on Saturday 7 October 2017 at 10.30am**

The Chair of the Board of Trustees, Dr Peta Foxall, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. 190 members were present (the second highest attendance in DWT's history). The Chair introduced new President, Prof Iain Stewart MBE, who had been appointed by the Board in July. The President chaired the meeting. All voting was carried out by a show of hands.

1. Apologies for absence

Nick Atkinson, Kay Callis, Elaine Evans, Sandy Evans, Diana Goodacre, Henry Jaggers, Thomas and Olive Maddock, David Manning, Nigel Rendle and Jane Walker

2. Minutes of the 2016 AGM held on 12 November

The minutes were approved and signed.

3. Trustees' Annual Report

The Chair of the Board reminded members that the Trustees' Annual Report, which was a legal requirement, was contained within the full accounts, on pages 1-20 and she then presented an overview of the range of Devon Wildlife Trust's activities during 2016-17.

The Chair of the Board proposed that the Trustees' Annual Report be adopted. Jeanne Cooper seconded the proposal and all being in favour, the Report was duly adopted.

4. Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 and the Auditors' Report

The Hon Treasurer, Richard Clack, was pleased to report that DWT's finances were sound but he cautioned that cash reserves still needed to be increased. He thanked members, donors and supporters and said that without their work and contributions the Trust would not be able to achieve all that it did.

The Director of Resources and Marketing, Penny Mason, presented some key points – income had totalled just under £4.3 million and expenditure just over £4.3 million. Current assets totalled £7,309,653, an increase on the previous year (£7,290,000). Unrestricted net assets had increased for the sixth consecutive year.

The DRM concluded that it had been a mixed year for the Group. Income, assets and reserves had increased and charitable and commercial expenditure had also increased. The vast majority of expenditure continued to be on charitable activities and income from membership, legacies and other individual giving continued to show a positive upward trend. Free reserves were still below desired level but had been increasing year on year for the last five years and the Trust had strong measures in place to mitigate against any related risks to the organisation. Devon Wildlife Services had had a challenging year but the auditors were satisfied that it was a going concern. A very thorough audit flagged up a number of management points relating to DWS finance systems which had now been addressed. The Auditors were satisfied that income, restricted and designated funds had been treated/recognised correctly

The Hon Treasurer proposed that the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017 be adopted. Douglas Stoddart seconded the proposal and all were in favour. The Report of the Auditors to the Members was printed on pages 21-22 of the Accounts. The 'Opinion on Financial Statements' confirmed that the Accounts gave a true and fair view of the organisation.

5. Election of Board members

It was noted that Nick Atkinson and Tony Jackson did not wish to stand for re-election. The Chair thanked them for their valuable contributions as trustees over the past 9 and 17 years respectively. The Board nominated Mr G W Hearnden, Dr M E Moser and Mr N W Rendle for re-election. The Chair called for a proposer, seconder and vote for each in turn. Anna Ingram proposed that Mr G W Hearnden be re-elected, seconded by Claire Sellars, all were in favour. David Nolan proposed that Dr M E Moser be re-elected, seconded by Claire Edey, all were in favour. Chris Curry proposed that Mr N W Rendle be re-elected, seconded by Douglas Herdson, all were in favour.

6. Appointment of the Auditors

The Hon Treasurer proposed the re-appointment of Francis Clark and that the Board be authorised to decide their remuneration. David Robertson seconded the proposal and all were in favour.

The Chair closed the formal meeting at 11.12am. It was followed by an Open Forum.