



Epping Forest Heritage Trust

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST (Company no. 01339783) (the "Company")

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Company held at Lopping Hall, Loughton on Saturday 19th October 2024 at 10.30am.

1. Chair's welcome and introductions

James Harrington introduced himself and welcomed people to the meeting.

The following apologies had been received: Rosie Perry Gosling, Tricia Moxey, Gail Scott Spicer, Caroline Pantling, Nicholas Munday, Janet Woods.

53 members were in attendance.

Paul Thomson, Jacqueline Eggleston and Tanith Cook were in attendance as guest speakers.

2. Minutes of the Annual General meeting of 14th October 2023.

The minutes of the meeting of the Annual General Meeting of 14th October 2023 were proposed to be agreed by Stephen Murray, seconded by David Wright.

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting by unanimous vote.

3. Presentation of Annual Report and Accounts.

Peter Lewis, Jo Richardson and David Pitwood presented the Annual Report and Accounts, setting out the achievements of the year and the financial position.

A special vote of thanks was given to all of our volunteers who are absolutely at the heart of our work running the Visitor Centre, leading and supporting our guided walks, acting as Trustees, supporting our policy work, delivering our conservation activities, as well as to the staff team.

The following was noted as part of the questions and answers with members:

- EFHT are investing their reserves to increase their impact, and are successfully growing our fundraised income.
- We are forecasting a lower than budgeted deficit this financial year, having already raised over £50k in income from trusts and foundations.
- In relation to Epping South EFHT might want to encourage the City/EFDC to look at the possibility of improved paths around Ivy Chimneys and heading south to the Forest.

- In relation to Forest signage EFHT/The City might want to approach Theydon Bois Council in relation to funding for a sign at the station.
- The paths in the south of the Forest around Hollow Ponds/Whipps Cross and heading north are in a very poor state and need improvement to manage future increased footfall
- The Essex Ramblers are concerned about the paths in the Forest, especially damage caused by cyclists to secondary paths in the Forest, as well as about the car parking charges. The West Essex Ramblers remain concerned about the charges for car parking, with no exemptions for local people, and having to estimate how long you will be before you head off which is different to, for example, the Lea Valley.
- The renaming of the Centenary Walk to the Epping Forest Big Walk has helped attract new, younger, and more diverse people to the walk which is a key part of our strategic objectives
- The path that allows children to walk from Theydon Bois to Copped Hall is in a very poor condition.

Councillor Stephen Murray wanted it to be noted how impressed he was with the year's activities especially 1. The engagement with election candidates was very influential, especially as EFHT was the only local group doing it. 2. The Community Engagement programme is really great, getting new people to appreciate the Forest. 3. The quality of submission in response to planning applications is very high, especially in relation to Epping South. The Trust might want to think more about Suitable Alternative Natural Green Spaces.

It was proposed by John Gilbert and seconded by David Wright that the meeting voted to receive the Annual Report and Accounts as presented by the Trustees. The meeting voted unanimously to receive the Annual Report and Accounts.

4. Elections

The following ordinary resolutions were all agreed by unanimous vote.

1. To elect Francis Castro as a trustee under Article 37 of the Company's Articles of Association.
2. To re-elect Tricia Moxey as a Director of the Company, who retires at this meeting by rotation, having previously been elected at the AGM held on 30th October 2021.
3. To note the appointment of Judy Adams as Honorary Life President.

5. Votes of thanks to Judy Adams

The meeting received votes of thanks to Judy Adams for her contribution to the Forest and EFHT over almost 50 years from Superintendent James Harrington, Jacqueline Egglestone, Paul Thomson, John Gilbert, Georgina Green, John Besent, Caroline Haines, Councillor Stephen Murray and Peter Lewis.

The meeting closed at 11.55am.