**Minutes of 8th CIO BDS AGM held on 16th November 2023 at Glamorgan Building, Cardiff University.**

1. Notice for this AGM had been published in Dragonfly News (DN) No 85.
2. Jess Slight agreed to take the minutes.
3. Minutes of the 7th CIO BDS AGM as published in Dragonfly News 85 were accepted as a true and accurate record.
4. Apologies for absence were received from Carolyn Cooksey, Pam Taylor, Ruary Mackenzie Dodds and Adrian Parr.
5. One minute’s silence was observed for 14 deceased members and a tribute to David McCullough was read out by the Chair.
6. Greetings were sent to our patrons Sir David Attenborough, Megan McCubbin and Honorary Members.
7. Reports from Trustees:

**Chair’s Report 2024**

1. 2024 has been a year of further growth for BDS with a new Patron, a new member of staff, and new trustees.
2. Megan McCubbin has accepted an invitation to be a Patron of BDS, working alongside Sir David Attenborough.
3. Andrea Hudspeth resigned from her role as Scotland projects officer and has been replaced by Jen Davidson.
4. We have been joined by four new trustees in 2024: Jonathan Willet, Nicole Digruber, Richard Greene and Katherine Cavanagh who will seek formal election today.
5. Brian Walker has reached the end of his 9 year term as a trustee of the CIO and is standing down in accordance with our Constitution.
6. Three Dragonfly Hotspots launched in 2024

Wicken Fen in Cambridgeshire

Newport Wetlands and Magor Marsh, Gwent Levels

RSPB Conwy, North Wales

1. Dragonfly Recording Scheme: The number of accepted Odonata records in iRecord has recently passed 750,000.
2. Conservation Highlights:

Continuing work on Review of British Red List

Dragonflies on the Bog and 100 Ponds projects in Scotland

1. BDS has joined the Pesticide Collaboration which will allow us to work with other organisations to reduce the use of pesticides in the UK.
2. Our E-newsletter, Hawker, goes from strength to strength with 4029 subscribers.
3. Our Instagram account now has 9,000 followers and we made our 1000th post last month.
4. BDS attended a number of major events in 2024 including Gardeners World Live, Glastonbury Festival, Global Birdfair and Spurn Migration Festival.

**Secretary’s Report**

1. Membership subscription rates increased from April 2024 and a new monthly Direct Debit option was introduced.
2. Membership has increased by around 15% in the current year and now stands at 2108.
3. Trustees have held four meetings since the last AGM, three using Zoom conferencing and one face-to-face meeting at Wicken Fen.
4. We have also held a number of meetings to progress elements of the Strategy including a new Pay Policy, a new Communications Strategy/Plan and a Membership Strategy.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The full report of accounts is available on the website and copies are available at reception today.

1. Total income £375,207 (2022/23 £155,580).
2. We are in a strong financial position because of our level of reserves, due to legacies and donations.
3. To a degree we are between funding streams this year, although income for the two Scottish projects will start before the year end.
4. There have been no significant legacies or donations to date this year and we will draw down on our reserves by £100k+ unless this changes.
5. Going forward, legacies will remain an important source of income as will growth in membership, which is a key part of our strategy.

**There was a unanimous vote to approve the financial report**.

1. Election of Trustees
2. Brian Walker and Bailey Tait stood down and did not offer themselves for re-election.
3. Josh Younespour and Carmel Edwards stood down but were standing for re-election.
4. Jonathan Willet, Nicole Digruber, Richard Greene and Katherine Cavanagh were elected as new trustees.

**Trustees standing for election/re-election were approved by a unanimous or near unanimous majority**

1. Notice of Next AGM

Will be published in DN 87

1. AOB

Our current secretary, Carolyn Cooksey had announced that she wished to stand down as secretary (although she will remain as a trustee) and we therefore have a vacant position if any members would like to volunteer for the role.

Following requests from members, we are considering reverting to an online AGM in 2025, probably as an evening event, to allow more members to attend.

The Chair thanked fellow trustees and the staff team for their hard work over the past year and thanked members for the huge amount of voluntary support that they provide for the Society.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 13.00.

Following the meeting, Brian Walker was made an Honorary Member of the BDS in recognition of his huge contribution to the Society over 16 years, including serving as both Treasurer and Chair.

**Financial Summary 2023/24**

Total Income 2023/24 - £375,207 (2022/23 - £155,580)

Total Costs 2023/24 - £180,382 (2022/23 - £145,058)