

Questions from AGM postal ballot papers - 2024

Question:	Response:
<p>Sweet Briar Marshes - It would be nice to know more re cattle - assume white park cattle with bull, Dexters, Belted Galloway (by gate). Info re Birds - Loos!</p>	<p>Carefully selected British White cattle from NWT's herd are used to graze the reserve to ensure only animals of good temperament are present on site. It is NWT policy that bulls are not placed on sites where there is public access so there will not be a bull on Sweet Briar. There is a full suite of monitoring in place at Sweet Briar Marshes and a breeding bird survey is conducted each year. The Urban Nature Reserves Manager Matt Wickens is the best person to contact for recent records of species using the reserve.</p> <p>Part of our vision for Sweet Briar Marshes is to welcome school groups to the site to inspire them to care for our natural world and for it to be an accessible space for everyone to experience nature. Therefore we are currently exploring possible sites for changing places toilets and accessible car parking spaces. There are no plans for these to be on the reserve itself, but close enough to enable those with mobility or other needs and young children to have easy access!</p>
<p>As new members we were concerned that the Nominations Group only selected 5 candidates out of 15 for 5 seats. We felt disenfranchised and understand that 10 people rejected did not want to stand independently. It feels a foregone conclusion. How is this the best democratic process?</p>	<p>In the past couple of years we have improved our Trustee recruitment process and advertised more widely than ever before. This has brought in a greater number of candidates, and the new process allows the current Board of Trustees to review their skills against what is required on the Board for the coming year(s). This year we had 15 interested parties, which were then shortlisted and the final 5 were selected as the Nominations Group preferred candidates. I agree that this year it may seem peculiar that we are asking members to choose up to 5 people from a selection of 5, but legally we do have to ask the members to vote on all resolutions. All members are able to put themselves forward to become a Trustee as per the terms sets out in our Memorandum &amp; Articles of Association, and those who were unsuccessful in making the Nominations Group preferred candidates list were invited to stand should they so wish. Whilst these unsuccessful candidates decided not to stand this year, it does not prevent them, or any member, from applying in future years.</p>

Question:	Response:
<p>How much money was spent to buy/refurbish the failing pub at Hickling? No mention in this of last years accounts. I guess full expenditure is hidden in 'current assets' or 'other expenditure'. It was never divulged on the press releases meanwhile my local Holme Dunes Reserve lacked the funds (for 2 years) to have a reliable working ATV until this April! Hickling pub project NOT mentioned at all in the 2023-24 or 2022-23 Impact Report - why not?</p>	<p>Investing in a popular local pub is the first step in allowing us to create new ways to introduce people to the nature, landscape and wildlife of Hickling, including walking routes and a growing programme of boat trips from Staithe.</p> <p>We will work in partnership with pub tenants, Rick and Felicity Malt, to ensure that the pub works in harmony with the interests of Norfolk Wildlife Trust, including aligning with our core values and playing a valuable role in welcoming people to Hickling Broad and Marshes to enjoy and learn about the area and its special wildlife. The Pleasure Boat pub was purchased in Oct 23 and refurb carried out March-July 24. The purchase was in the annual accounts but was within the fixed assets schedule, the increase in the value of freehold property we own.</p> <p>In the annual report we wrote:  'Our Hickling Vision - We purchased the Pleasure Boat Inn at Hickling Staithe to develop our vision for the area's wildlife and people. The purchase of the pub, with adjacent buildings, a large car park, public toilets and an associated mooring, complements our existing land and property holdings around Hickling Broad and Marshes. In addition to reinstating the pub for the community and visitors, we will develop additional visitor facilities at our new site, from which people will be able to find out more about Hickling Broad and its wildlife, as well as book and enjoy boat trips. Next steps will be to find a suitable business partner to run the pub on our behalf and work alongside the community to develop our 'Hickling Vision.'</p> <p>In terms of the UTV, (UTV is sit 'beside', ATV is sit 'astride' which we have a policy against using for safety reasons) Holme had a UTV which had an unexpected engine failure that could not be economically repaired so it was a sudden and unexpected loss of the machine. We seconded the Cley UTV up to Holme for some periods while we were trying to secure budget for purchase of a replacement machine for the site.</p> <p>There was a moratorium against purchasing any diesel machines due to the movement away from diesel engines on pollution grounds. The appropriately powered electric UTV was much more expensive than the diesel variant and no budget was in place to purchase it. The machine was requested in the budget but was not approved until external funding was eventually secured. The team did have a work vehicle (van) through this period but for the times that they did not have the Cley UTV, there was no vehicle that could be used on the beach. It is worth noting that work on the beach is mostly patrolling apart from when the cordons are deployed and we tried to ensure the Cley UTV was there for this period to carry equipment.</p>