



Report for 2023 Annual General Meeting

The charity is required, under the charter, to hold an Annual General Meeting, normally in July, for the purposes of reporting the activities of the charity and to allow the people of Watton to elect new trustees. Anyone over the age of 18 who resides in Watton may vote.

It is a requirement of the charities governing document that all trustees stand down at the AGM and then seek re-election if they wish to serve again. Trustees are unpaid and may not sell any commercial services or goods to the charity or otherwise have any financial benefit from their work with the Loch.

The board is comprised of four elected trustees and up to three additional trustees who may be elected or seconded. There are also four local organizations who are each permitted to appoint an additional trustee if they choose to do so.

The present board consists of four elected trustees, who were elected at the last AGM, one appointee from Watton Town Council and two seconded trustees.

Watton Town Council exercised their right to appoint a trustee, but the other bodies did not choose to take up this option.

The work of the trustees is important in both the physical care of the Loch but also the administration, fund raising and liaison with local authorities.

Some time ago the trustees met with the Breckland District Council officers responsible for the delivery of the Future Breckland project. This is a comprehensive plan for improving Breckland and, although Loch Neaton is a charity and not owned by any local authority, it features in the long-term plan when it is hoped the proposed cycle track / walkway along the route of the old Swaffham to Watton railway will terminate at Loch Neaton.

One of the aims of the trustees was to make the Loch path alongside the old railway embankment wheelchair accessible and following a successful plan submission BDC awarded us the £30,000 needed to purchase materials, tools and equipment necessary to carry out the work. Part of the funding was also used to



Loch Neaton Management Committee



employ two local groundworks workers for 3 weeks to work alongside our trustees and volunteers.

Approximately 700 manhours went into building the boardwalk which we opened on 14th April.



We have received many favourable comments from users of all ages and physical abilities and the trustees are proud to have been able to have achieved this for the people of Watton.



In addition to the boardwalk we have carried out a number of other improvements including a new set of steps up onto the railway embankment and improving the existing steps at the Dereham road entrance.



As always the seasonal weed has proved a problem in the Loch and this year we made the decision to hire a professional contractor to remove many tons of weed using a specially designed boat. Such radical work, which includes lifting roots and debris from the Loch bottom creates a short term problem (12 ~24 hours) and during this time we lost many fish but by evening the following day the water condition was good and there were no further issues. We use a high power water pump (600 litres per minute) and air venturi to help improve oxygen levels in the Loch alongside special bacteria that is added to reduce ammonia levels.

Our volunteers continue with manual removal with blanket weed that grows fast in the present weather conditions.

We continue, along with Watton sports Centre, to support the Park Run and as always the Loch is a haven for picnickers, dog walkers and anglers.

Over the coming months we will continue building additional seating areas around the Loch and we have plans to construct a childrens "maze" in the shape of a Hare picked out with artificial log pavers.



Loch Neaton Management Committee

The 2022 / 2023 financial year results are distorted by the large grant received from BDC and the correspondingly large spending. Loch Neaton's financial position is strong and costs are tightly controlled.

The Trial Balance is at the Financial Year End date of March 31st 2023 and some spending on the Boardwalk occurred after this date

Account	Net Debit	Net Credit
Assets		
Loch Neaton Investment A/C	£ 5,360.42	
Loch Neaton restricted Funds	£ 500.64	
Loch Neaton Treasurers A/C	£ 8,703.27	
PayPal Bank	£ 65.20	
Petty Cash	£ 83.40	
Income		
Direct Public Support – Corporate Contributions		£ 1,345.05
Direct Public Support – Individual Contributions		£ 120.00
Fishing Ticket Sales		£ 1,053.29
Interest Income		£ 12.00
Miscellaneous Revenue		£ 0.15
Sales		£ 30,194.32
Expense		
Accounting Fees	£ 28.80	
Breckland Boardwalk	£ 22,810.25	
Cost of Goods Sold	£ 5.00	
Equipment Lease or Rental	£ 80.00	
Insurance - Combined Liability	£ 327.16	
IT and Internet Expenses	£ 187.20	
Printing and Stationery	£ 58.19	
Repairs & Maintenance	£ 476.70	
Repairs and Maintenance	£ 1,168.64	
Waste Disposal * Includes up front fees for service until end 2023.	£ 1,211.65	
Web Site Costs	£ 94.75	