



Minutes of the 55th Annual General Meeting

Held on Thursday September 2nd 2021, at 1900, online via Zoom

Present

AGM Panel: Michelle Ryan (MR, Chair), Andrew Longland (AL, Treasurer), John Parker (JP, CEO).

Apologies

Apologies were received in advance from Doug Edworthy, Peter Annett and Matt Cooper.

1 Welcome from the Chair

MR welcomed attendees to the meeting, and noted that the proceedings would be recorded and a list of attendees kept. It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from Doug Edworthy, Peter Annett and Matt Cooper.

3 Minutes of the 2020 AGM to be approved

The minutes of the 2020 meeting had been circulated to the membership in advance of the AGM and no questions had been submitted. MR accepted the minutes as a true reflection of the 2020 AGM, unless there were any objections from attendees. No objections were raised.

Alastair Durkin proposed, Navin Sehmi seconded and the minutes were accepted as read.

4 Receipt of reports from the Board of Directors

Reports from the Chair, Treasurer and representatives from Professional Committee, Education & Training Committee, Media & Communications Committee and Arboricultural Association Trading Limited were circulated to the membership in advance of the AGM as part of the Annual Report 2020. No questions relating to the reports were submitted and the reports were accepted as read.

5 Receipt of the summary accounts of the Association for the financial year 2020

The summary accounts of the Association for the financial year 2020 were circulated to the membership in advance of the AGM as part of the Annual Report 2020. No questions relating to the accounts were submitted.

AL delivered a brief presentation of the accounts for the financial year 2020.

6 Update from CEO

JP delivered a brief operational update from the Malthouse. Thanks were given to Stewart Wardrop for his contribution to the Association as CEO. Tributes were paid to Peter Kenyon, Arthur Alec Arbon, Mike Townsend and former Association Vice President Henry Girling, all of whom sadly passed away in the last year.

Particular thanks were given to the Association staff team, who have worked exceptionally hard to ensure the success of the organisation during very difficult times. Also thanks to our volunteers – Trustees, Committee members and Branch officials – and the whole membership.

The Association continues to move from strength to strength and is performing well in all departments. This is reflected in the membership numbers, and in July 2021 the Association broke its record for the highest ever paying membership. The online Amenity Conference will be held on September 6th and 7th but will hopefully return to an in-person event in Loughborough in September 2022.

7 Presentation of the budget for 2021

AL delivered a brief presentation of the budget for 2021.

8 Appointment of Auditors for 2021

MR reported that Hazlewoods have been appointed as the Association's auditors for 2021, and this would be taken as being accepted unless there were any objections from attendees. No objections were raised.

9 Report of retirement of Trustees between AGM 2020 – AGM 2021

MR reported that the terms of office of elected Trustees Alastair Durkin and Jenny Long, and Co-opted Trustees Jaime Bray and Andrew Longland end as of this AGM.

It was noted that AL has been invited to join the Board meeting after the AGM to be Co-opted as Treasurer for another 12 month period.

MR thanked Jaime Bray, Jenny Long and former Treasurer Laurence Vine-Chatterton for their contributions to the Association during their time as Trustees.

10 Report of Trustees elected in September 2021

There were seven nominations for two places on the Board, and an election was held. The result was that Alastair Durkin and Stephen Westmore have been elected to the Board and will each serve a term of three years. MR congratulated the successful candidates and thanked

all of the nominations for putting themselves forward. The Association hopes that they will seek election again in the future.

11 Questions received in advance of the AGM

No questions were received in advance of the AGM.

12 Any other business

MR invited attendees to raise any other business using the chat or raise hand functions. Naomi Zurcher submitted a question, which was accepted. Naomi's question was:

I think the organization is wonderful and as someone who does not live in the UK, I would like to get more involved. Have you considered expanding the non-UK ability to participate in greater depth?

JP replied that the Association was indeed keen to do more to engage its international members and contributors, and that this has now become much easier thanks to the technology we have all become so familiar with as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We will indeed be looking at ways to make engagement and communication even easier, and the fact that Naomi – based in Switzerland – is able to ask this question live at the AGM is an indication of how much has already changed in a short amount of time.

JP proposed a straw poll to ask attendees whether they preferred the AGM to be online, and separate from conference – as the 2021 AGM is being held – or in-person as part of conference, as is the traditional method. A Zoom poll was used to ask attendees their opinion, and the result was that 27% preferred in person, 45% preferred online and 27% had no preference. It was suggested in the chat that a hybrid model might be possible, with an in-person AGM at conference which was also live-streamed on Zoom. JP thanked attendees for their participation and the format of future AGMs will be carefully considered by the Association staff and Trustees.

No other business was raised.

13 Time, date and venue of the 2022 AGM

The next AGM will be held in September 2022. Given the ongoing uncertainty relating to the pandemic, and the fact that an online AGM may be preferable to an in-person AGM, a precise time, date and location will be communicated to the membership in summer 2022.

MR brought the AGM to a close at 1939.