



# Minutes of the 57th Annual General Meeting

Held on Thursday August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at 1800, online via Zoom

AGM Panel: Michelle Ryan (MR, Chair), John Parker (JP, CEO).

Andrew Longland (AL, Treasurer) sent his apologies.

---

## 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. All members have had prior access to the agenda and the Annual Summary in advance of this meeting.

It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

## 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received in advance from Andrew Longland (AL, Treasurer), Rob Murison and Matt Cooper.

## 3. Minutes of the 2021 AGM to be approved

The minutes of the 2022 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 2022 AGM, unless there were any objections from attendees. No objections were raised.

Dan Curtis proposed, Naomi Zurcher seconded and the minutes were accepted as read.

## 4. Receipt of reports from the Board of Directors

Reports from the Chair, Treasurer and Arboricultural Association Trading Limited were circulated to the membership in advance of the AGM as part of the Annual Summary 2022. No questions relating to the reports were submitted and the reports were accepted as read.

Mark Mackworth proposed, Tony Lane seconded and the reports were accepted as read.

## 5. Receipt of the summary accounts of the Association for the financial year 2022

The summary accounts of the Association for the financial year 2022 were circulated to the membership in advance of the AGM as part of the Annual Summary 2022. No questions relating to the accounts were submitted.

Graham Underhill proposed, Mark Mackworth seconded and the summary accounts were accepted as read.

## **6. Update from CEO**

JP delivered a brief operational update from the Malthouse, summarising key activities and achievements of the year as described in the Annual Summary. In the absence of AL, JP also presented the Treasurer's Report from the Annual Summary, including key financial information from 2022.

## **7. Appointment of Auditors for 2022**

MR proposed that Hazlewoods be appointed as the Association's auditors for 2023. Members present were invited to raise any objections they might have with this proposal.

No objections were raised. Tony Lane proposed, Dan Curtis seconded and the motion was carried.

## **8. Report of retirement of Trustees between AGM 2022 – AGM 2023**

MR reported that the terms of office of elected Trustee Paul Barton came to an end at this AGM.

Between AGM 2022 – 2023 there was also one resignation from the Board, by Alastair Durkin.

AL will be stepping down from the Board as of AGM 2023. Rom Murison has been elected by the Board to become Interim Treasurer until the next Board meeting in October 2023.

MR thanked Alastair and Andrew for all of their hard work and the considerable contribution they made to the Association.

The Association now has two co-opted Trustees, Liz Nicholls (LN) and Sarah Armstrong (SA). LN and SA were co-opted to the Board in the period AGM 2022 – 2023. Co-opted Trustees are elected for one-year terms, and MR confirmed that LN and SA will all be proposed for co-option again at the next Board meeting.

## **9. Report of Trustees elected at AGM 2023**

There were seven valid nominations for election to the Board. The election was conducted electronically in August 2023, with all eligible members invited to participate.

JP announced that the independently confirmed results of the election were that Paul Barton and Sarah Kiss have been elected for a three year term.

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.

## **10. Questions received in advance of the AGM**

No questions were received in advance of the AGM.

## 11. Any other business

MR invited attendees to raise any other business using the chat or raise hand functions. The following questions were asked:

Question: How did we manage to spend £23k on ARB Show in 2022 and £100k in 2023?

Answer: *In 2022 we held ARB Show at APF rather than as a standalone event, which meant considerably reduced costs. The 2023 figure should be regarded as more of a return to pre-Covid normal as opposed to an increase from one year to the next.*

Question: Will you be able to publish in the next ARB Magazine the results gained from the Succession in Arboriculture and the Education meeting?

Answer: *We will be publishing more information about how these projects are progressing in future ARB Magazines and through other channels. We are hosting two workshops about Succession in Arboriculture at Conference and hope to broaden the discussion and involve more people, and we will be publishing the findings from those workshops in the near future.*

Question: Is there a plan to have a working group for Succession in Arboriculture?

Answer: *The Association has set up a Succession in Arboriculture which features representatives from some of the key stakeholders involved in the sector. The discussions from this group are feeding into identifying areas to prioritise focus, and once this has been achieved we intend to set up some task/area-specific working groups to help move things forward.*

Question: Why not appoint new Trustees rather than re-electing the same people?

Answer: *Everyone who wants to nominate themselves for Board has to go through exactly the same process whether they are seeking re-election or are standing for the first time. A substantial proportion of Trustees are on their first term, and one of our two newly-elected Trustees has never held that position before. The Association welcomes nominations from any eligible member.*

## 12. Time, date and venue of the 2023 AGM

The next AGM will be held at around this time of year (late August/early September) in 2024, ahead of the Amenity Conference. It will be online. More information about date and time will be provided to the membership in summer 2024.

MR thanked everyone for attending and brought the AGM to a close at 1840.