

Minutes of the 56th Annual General Meeting

Held on Wednesday August 31st 2022 at 1800, 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 Keith Sacre, Sarah Armstrong, Neville Fay and Ian Barnes.

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, the Directors' Reports 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 of the meeting as per the above.

3. Minutes of the 2021 AGM to be approved

The minutes of the 2021 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 2021 AGM, unless there were any objections from attendees. No objections were raised.

Sharon Durdant-Hollamby proposed, Claire Nash seconded and the minutes were accepted as read.

4. Receipt of reports from the Board of Directors

JP noted that the document containing the summary accounts and Directors' Reports has now been renamed for ease of reference and to avoid confusion. This document was previously known as the Annual Report, but is now called the Annual Summary.

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 2021. No questions relating to the reports were submitted and the reports were accepted as read.

AL delivered a short presentation about the current finances of the Association.

Mike Sankus proposed, Sue Barnes seconded and the reports were accepted as read.

5. Receipt of the summary accounts of the Association for the financial year 2021

The summary accounts of the Association for the financial year 2021 were circulated to the membership in advance of the AGM as part of the Annual Summary 2021. No questions relating to the accounts were submitted.

Andrew Poynter proposed, Graham Underhill seconded and the summary accounts were accepted as read.

6. Update from CEO

JP delivered a brief operational update from the Malthouse as per the CEO Report contained within the Annual Summary 2021. The Association continues to perform strongly, with all areas of the organisation at or exceeding pre-Covid levels. JP expressed thanks to the staff team at the Malthouse, to the volunteers – including the Board of Trustees – and to the membership as a whole for all contributing towards our success over the last twelve months.

7. Appointment of Auditors for 2022

MR proposed that Hazlewoods be appointed as the Association's auditors for 2022, and that this item would be put to a poll of attendees in which a simple majority would be enough to confirm the recommendation.

Andrew Poynter proposed, Mark Mackworth-Praed seconded and 97% voted in favour (35 of 35 attendees).

8. Report of retirement of Trustees between AGM 2021 – AGM 2022

MR reported that the terms of office of elected Trustees Michelle Ryan, Alan Simson, Keith Sacre and Mike Sankus came to an end at this AGM. Michelle, Alan and Keith were all eligible to stand for election again, and did so. However, Mike Sankus has reached the end of his third consecutive three-year term as Trustee and must therefore step down from the Board.

Between AGM 2021 – 2022 there were also two resignations from the Board, by Ian Murat and Navin Sehmi. Navin was Vice Chair and steps down at this AGM.

MR thanked Mike Sankus, Navin Sehmi and for all of their work for the Association over the years, which is hugely appreciated.

The Association now has three co-opted Trustees, AL, Liz Nicholls (LN) and Sarah Armstrong (SA). LN and SA were co-opted to the Board in the period AGM 2021 – 2022. Co-opted Trustees are elected for one-year terms, and MR confirmed that AL, LN and SA will all be proposed for co-option again at the Board meeting which immediately follows this AGM.

9. Report of Trustees elected at AGM 2022

There were ten nominations for Trustee. Two of these nominations came from non-members, and were therefore invalid. This left eight nominations for six places, and an election was therefore held. This was conducted electronically in August 2022, with all eligible members invited to participate.

JP announced that the independently confirmed results of the election were that Michelle Ryan, Keith Sacre, Alan Simson, Stella Bolam, Rob Murison and Neil Davies have been elected to the Board for three year terms.

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:

Why is the AGM online and not at Conference?

It was decided to hold the AGM online partly because of the results of a poll held at AGM 2021, at which a majority of members present expressed a preference for an online AGM. This does not necessarily have to stay the same forever, but there are advantages to running an online AGM and we intend to do so in 2023.

Is it free for members to enter ARB Show at APF?

No, unfortunately not. Due to the deal we have struck with APF it will not be possible for Association members to attend for free, but this is something we hope to resolve for future years.

Will the Wednesday Webinars be returning?

Yes, a series for the winter is planned and is currently in development.

How many people attended Conference online last year?

[JP to find the final figures for this].

Is it possible to become a member in Argentina?

Yes, absolutely – we have a range of membership options available, including in Argentina.

No other business was raised.

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 2023, ahead of the Amenity Conference. It will be online. More information about date and time will be provided to the membership in summer 2023.

MR thanked everyone for attending and brought the AGM to a close at 1838.