

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Heather Society held at 8.15pm on Sunday, 14th September 2014, The Royal Victoria Hotel, Llanberis, North Wales

Officers and Councillors Present

Dave Brown
Richard Canovan (Hon. Treasurer)
Andrew Collins
David Edge (Chairman)
Phil Joyner (Hon. Secretary)
Susie Kay
Barry Sellers

The Society Administrator, Dr Charles Nelson, was in attendance plus 14 ordinary members.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Dennis & Margaret Jeskins, Jean Julian, Ron & Brenda Lord, Jean McCrindle, David & Rita Plumridge, Eileen Petterssen, Walter Wornick and Ella May Wulff . These members extended their good wishes to the members present.

2. Opening Statement by the Chairman

The Chairman, David Edge, welcomed the members to the AGM and followed with his Opening Statement the text of which is attached. (note: the word “endowments” in the Chairman’s Opening Statement, should read “donations and a legacy”).

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8th September, 2013

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8th September, 2013, at Thirsk, had been included in the Conference Folder. Charles Nelson proposed that the Minutes be accepted as an accurate record of that meeting, seconded by Barry Sellers and all present indicated their agreement by a show of hands. The Minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

3a. President’s address

The President, Professor John Griffiths, gave an appreciation of the Chairman, David Edge, for his tireless work in publicising both the Society and the growing of heathers, and his display at the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show which was awarded a Silver Medal. The text of the appreciation is attached.

4 Presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2013

The Hon. Secretary, Phil Joyner, presented the 2013 Annual Report, a draft version of which had previously been circulated to the members. He commented that the Annual Report and the Accounts would shortly be passed to the Independent Examiner. An item highlighted was the membership total which continues to fall.

The Hon. Treasurer, Richard Canovan, after assuaging fears of the impacts of the Scottish Referendum on the Society, turned to the 2013 Accounts, a draft version of which had been previously circulated to the members. The Hon. Treasurer apologised for the accounts not yet being presented to the Independent Examiner as there had been a number of problems to resolve. The Hon. Treasurer commented that we were now well placed for the deficit being turned around. He also commented on various items within the Accounts. Mention was also made of the receipt of a generous legacy, from the late Bob Rope's estate, received earlier in this current year.

Charles Nelson pointed out that the donation of £1000 from the Bowerman Charitable Trust was acknowledged on the title-page of the 2014 yearbook because the donation had subsidized its publication, as agreed with the Bowerman family. Charles Nelson also asked if there had been a request from the late Bob Rope's estate for a specific item on which the aforementioned legacy should be spent. The Hon. Secretary replied that there had been verbal mention that a garden be created in Bob Rope's memory but that the Executors had realised the shortcomings of such a project and had

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agreed the monies be used for the greater good of the Society, as decided by Council. Audrey Sprague requested to know the amount of the legacy to which the Hon Treasurer replied £10,000.

Alan Kay asked if a copy of the signed 2013 Accounts would be made available to the membership and the Hon. Treasurer agreed it would be included with the 2015 Spring Bulletin. The Hon. Secretary stated that it is a requirement by the Charity Commission that the Annual Report and Accounts for any year be signed off and the totals presented to them by 31st October the following year.

5. Appointments by The Heather Society Council

The current President and Vice-Presidents, as listed below, were again appointed and this was unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

- The President: Prof. John Griffiths
- Vice-Presidents: Daphne Everett, Pamela Lee, Alice Knight, and
ex officio President of Gesellschaft der Heidefreunde (Kurt Kramer)
President of NAHS (Karla Lortz to end of 2014)

6. Election of Officers (Nominated by the Council)

The Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, David Edge, Phil Joyner and Richard Canovan respectively, accepted nomination for a further year and this was unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

7. Elections of Members of Council

Under rule 6(b) 2010 both David Edge and Andy Collins had served a 3 year term and had put their names forward for re-election. The Hon. Secretary was in possession of nomination papers for those candidates, duly completed and signed. The subsequent re-election of David Edge and Andy Collins was unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner for the 2013 Annual Report and Accounts, Jason Foxwell, had indicated his willingness to examine the 2014 Annual Report and Accounts during 2015. Barry Sellers proposed that Jason Foxwell be re-appointed Independent Examiner and Dave Brown seconded that proposal. There was unanimous agreement by a show of hands.

9. Arrangements for the 2015 Annual General Meeting and Conference

The Conference Organiser, Susie Kay, announced that the 2015 conference would be held at the Leenane Hotel situated in the village of Leenane, Connemara, Republic of Ireland from Thursday 10th September to Monday 14th September with the Annual General Meeting being held at some time during that period. A programme for the weekend is currently well into the planning stage and will include speakers, visits and in particular a viewing of the native heathers in their natural habitat. Various options for travelling to the venue were discussed and a carousel of views taken in Connemara were displayed. Susie Kay asked the members of the audience, intending to participate, to fill out a booking form and pay their £5 booking fee to Alan Kay. A colourful brochure, advertising the gathering, will be included with the Autumn Bulletin.

Meeting concluded @ 9:20pm

Certified a true copy of the Heather Society AGM Minutes of the 14th September 2014.

Signed.....Chairman

Dated.....