

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Heather Society held at 9.00am on Sunday, 8th September 2013, at the Golden Fleece Hotel, Thirsk, Yorkshire

Officers and Councillors Present

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

The Society Administrator, Dr Charles Nelson, was in attendance plus 22 other ordinary members.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Richard & Barbara Bowater, Dave Brown, Satoshi Miwa, Anne Small, Geoff & Dorothy Warner, Walter Wornick, Ella May Wulff and Geoff Yates. 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 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Society. The Chairman's opening statement is attached.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9th September, 2012

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9th September, 2012 at Falmouth had been previously circulated. Diane Jones 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 with a display at the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show the display being awarded a Silver Gilt Medal. John Hall's contribution to this event was also acknowledged. The text of the appreciation is attached.

4 Presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2012

The acting Hon. Secretary, Phil Joyner, presented the 2012 Annual Report, which had previously been circulated to the members. He commented on the Annual Report and the Accounts as being a draft version, the paperwork currently being with the Independent Examiner. Items highlighted were a 5% drop in membership with most new members coming via the website, minimal Local Group activities and no publicity event in 2012 other than involvement in an RHS specialist society day. He went on to thank the Officers and the Members of Council for their roles in the running the Society and the Administrator, Dr. Charles Nelson, for his work as both the Administrator and the Yearbook Editor. Also the Hon. Secretary's thanks were extended to Daphne Everett, the Bulletin Editor, and Alan Kay for support of his wife Susie in the organising of the Conference.

The Hon. Treasurer, Richard Canovan presented the 2012 Accounts, a draft version of which had been previously circulated to the members. The Hon. Treasurer commented on various items within the Accounts notably expenses exceeding payments by £4K and as such the need to work hard to reduce the deficit by looking at savings and various measures to increase the revenue stream. He further commented on the increase in membership subscriptions for 2014 and the changing of the Society's banking arrangements.

From the floor Jean Preston queried that she didn't see an RHS affiliation and public liability fee within the payments column. The Hon. Secretary replied that because the RHS had brought the payment of these fees in line with their own accounting year then the fee paid in 2011 covered 2012.

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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 2013)

6. Election of Officers (Nominated by the Council)

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

In the absence of any nominations for the vacant Hon. Secretary's position Phil Joyner agreed to take on the position for the year and this was unanimously agreed by a show of hands. From the floor Dr. Roy Nichols expressed his and the Society's thanks to Phil Joyner for taking on the position.

7. Elections of Members of Council

Under rule 6(b) 2010 Barry Sellers had served a 3 year term and had put his name forward for re-election. The subsequent re-election of Barry Sellers was unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

The Hon. Secretary was in possession of one nomination paper, duly filled out and signed, for a member, Dave Brown, to be elected to Council. The Chairman, as a matter courtesy, informed the members of the suitability of Dave Brown as a Council member. The election of Dave Brown was unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner of the 2012 Annual Report and Accounts, Jason Foxwell, had indicated his willingness to examine the 2013 Annual Report and Accounts. The Hon. Secretary proposed that Jason Foxwell be re-appointed Independent Examiner and Dr. Charles Nelson seconded that proposal. There was unanimous agreement by a show of hands.

9. Arrangements for the 2014 Annual General Meeting and Conference

The Conference Organiser, Susie Kay, announced that the 2014 conference would be held at the Legacy Royal Victoria Hotel in Llanberis situated within the Snowdonia National Park from Friday 12th September to Monday 15th September with the Annual General Meeting being held at some time during that weekend. A programme for the weekend is in its infancy but could include a talk from a speaker from the Snowdonia Society, a visit to a garden on Anglesey, a visit to Port Meirion and a trip on the Snowdonia mountain railway. Susie Kay asked that members intending to come fill out a booking form and pay their £5 booking fee to the Administrator.

Susie Kay also briefly mentioned a trip to Spain between the 2nd and 7th of July, 2014 at an approximate cost of EUR 650, not including the cost of the flights.

Meeting concluded @ 9:50am

Certified a true copy of the Heather Society AGM Minutes of the 8th September 2013.

Signed.....Chairman

Dated.....