

Scotland's Garden & Landscape Heritage

Minutes of the Fifth Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 22 June 2019 at
Botanic Cottage, 20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR

The following documents were circulated before the meeting.

Notice of AGM
Booking Form
Proxy Form
Agenda of AGM
Report & Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2018

The Minutes of the fourth SGLH AGM had previously been uploaded to the SGLH website. Copies of the Minutes of the fourth SGLH AGM, the Agenda, and the Report & Accounts were also available at the AGM.

Election of a Chairman for the meeting

Chloe Bennett was elected to chair the meeting, proposed by David Simpson, seconded by Andrew Maclehose.

Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed the participants:

Chloe Bennett	Matthew Benians	
Nick Bennett	Catherine Sanderson	Jane Armstrong
Robert Luther	Andrew Maclehose	Heather Maclehose
Mark Gibson	Louise Fitzpatrick	Susan Bennett
Sarah Barron	Judy Riley	Lesley Cumming
Christopher Dingwall	David Simpson	Marion Shawcross
Anne Hardcastle	Graham Shawcross	

Apologies had been received from:

Carol Jefferson-Davies	John West	Sue Hewer
Hilary Gunkel	Gill West	Peter Fitch
Freyda Taylor	Shannon Fraser	Vanessa Stephen
Shiona Mackie	John Byrom	Bea Dower
Hannah Tweedie	Patricia Andrew	Morna Knottenbelt
Marilyn Brown		

Report & Accounts

Chloe Bennett referred the meeting to the Report & Accounts circulated previously, and went on to outline the SGLH events scheduled for later this year. She also thanked Sue Hewer, the SGLH trustees and all the Glorious Gardens volunteers for their hard work on the Glorious Gardens project.

Bob Luther then reported that SGLH had increased its net membership by seven since the previous AGM, and that membership now stands at 114, of whom 28 are life members. There had, however, been 15 non-renewals of membership since SGLH had been established.

Bob confirmed that the SGLH accounts had been duly verified by our accountant and approved by OSCR. SGLH had generated a deficit of £3,820 in 2018, as against £113 in 2017. The main causes of the higher deficit were the Repton event at Broomhall/Valleyfield, which had nevertheless been a great success by all accounts, and the cost of completing the GG1 project following the termination of the contract with Northlight Heritage. On the advice of the accountant, the Board of Trustees had agreed to establish a reserves policy, according to which sufficient free reserves should be maintained at all times to meet annual administrative costs. The latter were currently estimated at approximately £5,000, and the unrestricted reserves stood at £9,718 at 31 December 2018.

Bob then reported on the successful conclusion of Glorious Gardens 1 and 2 and explained that SGLH was looking at developing a further phase that would involve the development of a digital package to be made available for recording projects across Scotland. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) had been approached and had offered funding provided SGLH could secure matched funding. SGLH had contacted East Lothian Council with a view to testing the digital package on the sites which had not been covered during the earlier GHSS/GHSSCT recording project in East Lothian and thus securing matched funding from that Council.

Bob also reported that funding had been raised for a new SGLH website, including a substantial contribution from HES and that two potential providers had been interviewed. The plan was to launch the new website by the end of November 2019.

At this point, Judy Riley noted that the current website was funded to a significant degree by donations from the SGLH trustees, SGLH having very little money at the time, and that the trustees had thereby demonstrated their faith in the new organisation. She noted with satisfaction how fully that faith had been justified.

The adoption of the Report & Accounts was proposed by Niall Manning, seconded by Christopher Dingwall, and unanimously approved.

Election of trustees

Three Board members retired at the AGM, namely Christopher Dingwall, Hannah Tweedie and Mark Gibson (as Secretary and trustee), Christopher Dingwall and Hannah Tweedie stood for re-election. In addition, Matthew Benians, who had earlier been co-opted to the Board, stood for election. There were no other nominations.

The appointment of Christopher Dingwall, Hannah Tweedie and Matthew Benians was proposed by Sarah Barron, seconded by Judy Riley, and unanimously approved.

Election by the Board of Trustees of a new Secretary

The election of a new Secretary to replace Mark Gibson was deferred, and Bob Luther will act as Secretary until a new Secretary is elected.

On behalf of the trustees and members, Bob Luther thanked Mark Gibson for his contribution as Secretary and a trustee of the Garden History Society in Scotland and subsequently of SGLH over the last seven years. Mark will continue to act as editor of *The Pleasaunce* for a while longer.

Any other competent business

There being no other competent business, the meeting concluded at 11.26,