

## The Kew Society

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### Meeting Notes of the Annual General Meeting

Date: Monday, 22nd October 2018

Time: 19.00 – 20.00

Venue: The National Archives, Kew TW9 4HF

#### Attendees from the current Executive Committee

Caroline Brock (Chair)  
Michael Adams (Hon. Treasurer)  
Claire Bethel (Hon. Secretary)  
Avril Dalglish (Environment)  
Venetia Harper (Co-opted Environment)  
Richard Jaggard (Co-opted)  
Roger Mason (Co-opted)  
John Oxley (Planning)  
John Ricketts (Co-opted Planning)  
Alice Shackleton (Planning)  
Martin Taylor (Planning)

#### Meeting notes recorded by

Claire Bethel (Hon. Secretary)

#### Apologies noted from

Patrons: Nick Baird, Baroness Jenny Tonge, Sir David Durie

Zac Goldsmith MP, was invited as a guest but was unable to attend;

Councillors Richard Warren and Lotte Campanile were invited as guests but were unable to attend.

Members: Nicholas Armour, Anthony Brass, Valerie Booth, Caroline Blomfield, Diana and Robert Guy, Nick and Diana Hutchings, Daphne Jarden, Claudine and Douglas McCreddie, Nigel Rice, Ann and Alan Sandall, Derek Stanton, Sara Walker

#### Introduction

- The Chair, Caroline Brock, welcomed all to the AGM, including Councillors Ian Craigie and J F Burford who was attending as a guest, and thanked Paul Davies, National Archives Operations Director, and his team for providing the venue. The Chair explained that the meeting would provide an opportunity to look back at what Trustees had done for the Society over the last year and how funds had been used,
- The Chair reported the sad news that Bill Timmis, a previous chair of the Society, had died last week.

1.

To accept the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25th October 2017

- These were accepted as an accurate record.

2.

To accept the Annual Report of the Trustees.

- Presenting the report of the Trustees, the Chair thanked members of the Kew Society and her colleagues on the Committee for their contributions, highlighting some of the issues addressed during the past year. These are set out fully in the written report which is also on the Kew Society website.

Objectives of The Kew Society

- The Chair summarised the key objectives of the Kew Society, to preserve the best and enhance the rest of Kew as set out in the key documents presented to the meeting.

Planning

- The Chair summarised some of the work undertaken by the Planning sub-committee during the year, all guided by the Society's planning policy. Many local, London-wide and national planning policies had been reviewed and comments submitted including on Richmond Council's Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on the Old Deer Park, Hounslow Council's Brentford East and the 'Great West Corridor' SPDs, the Mayor's London Plan and the Government's National Planning Policy Framework.
- Many applications had been reviewed, all summarised on the website. The Chair highlighted the work on the Chiswick Curve Appeal Public Inquiry where the Kew Society had been a Rule 6 party, other sites in Brentford, the Stag Brewery proposal and telecoms equipment proposals.
- Thanks were extended to Caroline Brock, John Oxley, John Ricketts, Alice Shackleton and Martin Taylor for their work on planning issues.

Events

- The Kew Society Events Team had organised many events which aimed to highlight local architecture, environment, culture and history, attracting new members, keeping the interest of existing members and enabling members to meet up.
- Seven talks had been held including talks on the restoration of the Great Pagoda, Richmond's Royal Laundry and on local air pollution. There had also been seven tours including the Kew Centre for Economic Botany, Kew Palace and the Royal Kitchens and Chiswick House and Gardens and a showing of the film, 'Richmond Park – a National Nature Reserve' narrated by Sir David Attenborough.
- Several new members had been invited to a Chair's reception.
- Thanks were extended to Mary Done, Jane Hogan and Sue May.

### Environment

- The Environment sub-committee aims to protect and improve the environment in and around Kew.
- Priorities this year had included work with the Old Deer Park Group, addressing the proposed expansion of Heathrow including changes to the flight paths, looking at the impact on noise and air pollution; work to address air quality in the area; tackling the graffiti along the railway track and bridges, and submitting an entry for the Best Village award in the Richmond in Bloom competition.
- Thanks were extended to Caroline Brock, Avril Dalglish, Venetia Harper, Richard Jaggard, Roger Mason and Peter Willan.

### Projects

- The Kew Society had been successful in obtaining funding for a Community Notice Board from the Village Planning Fund. Work had continued on the gardening at Kew Gardens Station which had been replanted in November 2016 with 1500 plants, and extended this year to the bank overlooking North Road.
- Thanks were extended to Richard Jaggard, Sue May, all collaborators and the 15 Kew Society volunteers.

### PR and Marketing

- Nora Dennehy has helped to raise the Society's profile. The Kew Society had won a Richmond in Bloom Silver Gilt award this year and this had been covered on social media and the website, both of which were key communication tools. Instagram was now used as well as Facebook and Twitter.
- Emails to members were also used to publicise key issues and events. A quarterly newsletter had been produced. A stall at Kew Fete and at the National Archives Open House had been used to publicise the work of the Society. Membership was increasing and currently stood at 743, an increase of 61 this year.
- Thanks were extended to Claire Bethel, Nora Dennehy, Mary Done, Paul Firby, Michael Fletcher, Nick Hutchings, Jane Hogan, and Sue May as well as other trustees and helpers.

### Governance

- The transformation to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation had been completed. The Society had taken out a new insurance policy this year with no age restrictions.
- Data protection and privacy had been reviewed.
- Thanks were extended to Mike Adams, Claire Bethel and Richard Jaggard.

	<p><u>Conclusion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chair thanked all the Kew Society trustees, helpers and our Patrons.</li> <li>• The Report was proposed for acceptance by the Trustees, seconded by Paul Bethel and approved by members in a show of hands as well as proxy votes received.</li> </ul>
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>To accept the Annual Statement of Accounts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Treasurer, Mike Adams, summarised the accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018 which were available at the meeting and on the Kew Society website. He said that there had been a seamless transfer from the unincorporated association and this had been the Society's first year as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Mike explained the rationale for the transfer to reserves shown in the accounts, and explained that these would only be used in exceptional circumstances.</li> <li>• Whilst the Kew Society had previously made more donations to other local organisations, more money had been spent this year on Kew Society projects, reflecting a change in direction.</li> <li>• In response to questions, Mike explained why the level of Gift Aid appeared to have fallen this year which was as a result of the collection held the previous year for the bench to commemorate David Blomfield which had generated a considerable sum of Gift Aid. It was suggested that the term 'restricted funds' should be used in future instead of 'contingency reserve' with the other specific reserves being 'designated' funds.</li> <li>• There had been a slight increase in stationery and printing costs; members were asked to use email wherever possible.</li> <li>• The Accounts were proposed by Mike Adams, seconded by Caroline Brock and approved in a show of hands as well as proxy votes received.</li> </ul>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Election of Trustees of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caroline Brock, John Oxley and Martin Taylor stood down. Mary Done, Richard Jaggard, Roger Mason and John Ricketts were proposed for election by the existing Trustees, Venetia Harper was proposed by members; the nominations were all seconded by Robert Smith, and approved in a show of hands as well as proxy votes received.</li> </ul>
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Election of Officers of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The existing Trustees proposed the following as Officers of the CIO: Roger Mason as Chair, Nora Dennehy as Vice-Chair, Michael Adams as Honorary Treasurer and Claire Bethel as Honorary Secretary. These were seconded by Paul Bethel and approved in a show of hands as well as proxy votes received.</li> </ul>

6.	<p><u>Appointment of Mr G. L. Turner as Independent Examiner for Statement of financial activities for the year to July 31st, 2019</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr Turner's appointment was proposed by Caroline Brock, seconded by Mike Adams and approved in a show of hands and proxy votes received.</li></ul>
7.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Chair presented a gift to Martin Taylor who was standing down and thanked him for all that he had done during his six years on the Committee. John Oxley was also thanked in his absence as he had had to leave the meeting early.</li><li>• Mike Adams presented the Chair with a bouquet and thanked her profusely for all the excellent work that she had done for the Kew Society over the past six years which had made a real difference and raised the profile considerably. He said that she would be missed by the committee and members alike.</li><li>• Roger Mason then assumed the chair and added his thanks for all that Caroline had achieved during the past six years and hoped that she would stay very closely involved with the Society.</li></ul>