

The Kew Society

Meeting Notes of the Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 17th October 2023

Time: 19.00 – 20.00

Venue: The National Archives, Kew TW9 4HF

Attendees from the current Executive Committee

Shiona Williams (Chair)
Steve Williams (Hon. Treasurer)
Claire Bethel (Hon. Secretary)
Janet Clark (Membership Secretary)
Nora Dennehy (PR and Vice-Chair)
Mary Done (Events)
Venetia Harper (Environment)
Russel Hayes (Co-opted)
Nick Hutchings (Co-opted, Webmaster)
Maggie Mason (Co-opted, Gardening)
Diana Ormond
John Ricketts (Planning)
Alice Shackleton (Planning)
Trevor Whittaker (Co-opted, Environment)

Meeting notes recorded by:

Claire Bethel (Hon. Secretary)

Apologies noted from:

- Guests: Sarah Olney MP and Cllr Ian Craigie who had been invited as guests but were unable to attend.
- Patrons: Nick Baird
- Executive Committee: Jeremy Lumbers
- Members: Apologies are appended to these minutes.

Around 90 members attended.

	<u>Introduction</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Chair, Shiona Williams, welcomed everyone to the AGM for 2022/23 at the end of a busy year in office.
1.	<u>To accept the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25th October 2022</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● These were accepted by Roger Mason and seconded by Mike Adams; the minutes were accepted as an accurate record. The proposal was approved by all members participating.

<p>2.</p>	<p><u>To accept the Annual Report of the Trustees</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair presented her report, highlighting some of the key issues addressed during her first full year in office [see slides on the website] (from 1st August 2022 to 31st July 2023). These are included in her full written report which is available, together with that of the trustees, on the Kew Society website. She thanked all the trustees of the Society for their work during the year. She emphasised that although two new trustees were standing for office this year and would fill some of the gaps left by the four departing trustees, additional volunteers were still needed. In particular, help was needed to cover planning, the Richmond Heathrow Campaign and social media. • The Kew Society’s patrons (Sir David Durie, Sir Donald Insall and Nick Baird) were thanked for their continued interest in The Kew Society and their support. • The Annual Report was proposed for acceptance by Grant Lewison seconded by Richard Mason and approved by members as well as the proxy votes received in advance of the meeting.
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>To accept the Annual Statement of Accounts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Treasurer, Steve Williams, explained and summarised the accounts for the Society for the year ending 31st July 2023. He thanked Shiona for her leadership during the past year. Full details are set out in the written accounts which are available on The Kew Society website. The largest item of expenditure during the year had been the contribution to the costs of the circular walk leaflet. There was a surplus of income over expenditure of around £200 with the total funds of the Society at £32,645. Compared to last year, there had been a slight reduction in costs and expenditure. • Theresa Hartley asked about plans for spending the funds currently held in reserves. Steve Williams explained that plans would be made to spend some of this funding once the strategy had been finalised and priorities agreed. However, it was necessary to keep some funding in reserve. • Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Mike Adams, seconded by Sue May and approved by a vote.
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Election of members of the Executive Committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claire Bethel, Nora Dennehy, Venetia Harper and Alice Shackleton are standing down after three years in office. • Russel Hayes and Jeremy Lumbers were elected as Trustees of the Society. This was proposed by Geoff Williams, seconded by Nora Dennehy and approved by a vote.
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Election of Officers of the Executive Committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existing Trustees had put forward the following as Officers of the Executive Committee of the CIO: Shiona Williams as Chair, Jeremy Lumbers as Vice-Chair, Steve Williams as Honorary Treasurer and Diana Ormond as Honorary Secretary.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The election of the above candidates was proposed by Sue May, seconded by Paul Bethel and approved by members.
6.	<p><u>Appointment of Claire Satow as new Independent Examiner for the year ending July 31st, 2023</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Claire Satow's appointment for the coming year as Independent Examiner of Accounts had been approved by the Executive Committee.• This was proposed by Steve Williams and seconded by Sir David Durie and approved by all present.
7.	<p><u>Q&A from members of The Kew Society</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A question was asked by a member about the possible need to consider a different fee structure to attract younger members to the Society. The Chair said that various ways were under consideration as to how younger members might be encouraged to join and the activities likely to appeal to them.
8.	<p><u>Any other business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SW thanked patrons and the committee and co-opted members on the committee for all their work during the year.• There was no other business.• A presentation was made to the four retiring trustees to thank them for the work they had done over the last six years for The Kew Society.

List of apologies:

Jack Andrews
John Blair-Gould
Margaret Blair-Gould
Valerie Booth
Carole Brougham
Chris Fegan
Leigh Fincke
Phil Kirk
John and Frances Leach
Marilyn Mann
Donna McDonald
Roger Metcalfe
Joan Stanton
Baroness Jenny Tonge