

MINUTES OF THE 26TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT TREBAH HOUSE, TREBAH GARDEN

ON

SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER 2017

1. PRESENT

Council of Management

Robert Dudley-Cooke (Chairman), Anthony Vyvyan, Carolyn Brodie, Lucie Nottingham, Gill Pipkin, Ray Townsend, Sue Nathan, Harry Bradshaw and Tim Hubbard

Apologies

Sue Child, Richard Smith, Geoff & Cynthia Wilson, Frances Hindley, G M Giffin, Tim Smit, Anne Hilton-Evans, Jo Penn, Peter Hodgson, James Hodgson, Tim & Alison Brooksbank, Charles Richardson, Mike Harvey, Alida & Ronald England, Mary Vyvyan, Brian & Lizzie Hoskins, Laurence & Sheila Taylo

In attendance

Nigel Burnett, Director

Members Present

24 members attended

2. MINUTES OF THE 25th AGM HELD ON SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER 2016

All members having received a copy of AGM Minutes 2016, it was moved that the Minutes be taken as read and approved.

Proposed and Seconded. Approved.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As those of our Members who regularly attend the AGM of the Trebah Garden Trust will have realised, we have changed this year the timing and the venue but not the format of our proceedings. Normally the AGM proceedings form part of a social evening but this year we decided that we would divide these functions, and deal with the yearly formalities today and have a separate social evening at a more propitious time of the year, probably in July.

The accounts we are considering here today are of course historic, in that they relate to our trading year which finished on the 31st January 2017, some 9 months ago. I believe it would be fair to say that the accounts reflect a strong trading position for the year, a position which the Trust has maintained now for a good number years and it is therefore a case of building on a good and improving position, not only in trading, but also in our cash position which has improved year on year. We the Trustees have been careful also to improve our amenities and carry out necessary improvements and repair works at the same time, so these expenditures have also been absorbed during the continuing tide of improvement. The refitting of our restaurant/conversion of the house/the new Amphitheatre immediately come to mind.

However, we are not resting on our laurels, far from it. We have plans afoot for works at the bottom of the garden and the beach which will change very considerably access to the beach for our visitors. The current narrow footbridge will go and will be replaced with direct level access to the beach along with major works required to make the beach secure and safe. Funding has been agreed through the Heritage Lottery Fund. At this stage we still have a number of hurdles to overcome relating to the involvement of other interested parties and the implementation of the project must, at this stage, be subject to these caveats.

I think it is appropriate to say a special thank you to Chris Hibbert who has been charged with the considerable task of submitting our application for funds with the successful outcome we had hoped for.

Another major project is the Walled Garden which will be sited in the area of the existing Tennis Court at the entrance of the garden. There would normally have been a walled garden in a property and garden the size of Trebah, and we are seeking to provide, not only for, but particularly bearing in mind, our visitors with limited mobility, in what is a very challenging garden to traverse. We hope too to be able to provide in this sheltered environment some interesting plants to add to the existing large collection of plants at Trebah. Work should start towards the end of 2018. Hopefully in this way we will encourage people who may not normally have been contemplating visiting Trebah, to come and use this new facility, together with our catering facilities and thus have an enjoyable visit to Trebah without necessarily the need to go around the larger garden.

The financial figures for this current year are to date most encouraging and of course we are already through the peak months and the forecast is above our budgeted figure. This should therefore result in an increase in profitability over the accounts we are considering today at our AGM.

Trebah has become over the years a very established garden and leisure attraction and we can look forward to a period of good and profitable trading which of course enables us to undertake and exciting projects with confidence subject only to the impact of Brexit.

Very little is possible without a committed and dedicated staff and we are particularly fortunate at Trebah in having a General Manager/Director Nigel Burnett who has been with us for over 10 years and who understands exceedingly well the needs and directions that we must follow. He heads up a team of which we are entitled to be proud whether this be in the garden itself, the restaurant, the shop, the plant sales or in administration and marketing. They are all deserving of our grateful thanks.

Trebah benefits too from having a Management Committee of Trustees and the full Council of Management, all of whom have been able to work in close harmony together for a considerable number of years. They bring with them, together with Nigel Burnett, a wide range of talents for the benefit of Trebah and its continuance in perpetuity. To all those I have mentioned, whether they be staff or Trustees, I say a very big "THANK YOU" and if this wasn't enough we have a thriving and growing membership.

Ladies and Gentlemen this concludes my Report

4. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

James Hodgson of Hodgsons Accountants presented the audited accounts and financial report of the financial year ended 31st January 2017. Approved.

5. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

We consider that Hodgsons have carried out their role as Auditors very efficiently. We recommend they be re- appointed. They are prepared to continue. Proposed and seconded. Approved.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with the Articles of Association, Carolyn Brodie, Gillian Pipkin, Tim Hubbard and Charles Richardson offer themselves for re-election to the Council of Management. Proposed and Seconded. Approved.

Peter Hodgson who had been serconded was formally appointed as a new Trustee. Proposed and Seconded.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8. SOCIAL EVENING