

**MINUTES OF THE 27TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD AT TREBAH HOUSE, TREBAH GARDEN**

**ON**

**SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER 2018**

**1. PRESENT**

Council of Management

Robert Dudley-Cooke (Chairman), Anthony Vyvyan, Carolyn Brodie, Lucie Nottingham, Gill Pipkin, Ray Townsend, Sue Nathan, Harry Bradshaw, Charles Richardson, Mike Harvey

Apologies

Tim Hubbard, Peter Hodgeson, James Hodgeson, Joy Orwell, Carole and Mike Hurst, Sue Child, Ruth O’Keeffe and Nick Robinson, Prof Anthony Trinick, Carole Perkin, Ron and Alida England, Susan Pester, Anne Hilton Evans, Michael and Janette Mellor, Jo Penn, Mr and Mrs Brian Edwards

In attendance

Nigel Burnett, Director

Members Present

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**2. MINUTES OF THE 26th AGM HELD ON SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER 2017**

All members having received a copy of AGM Minutes 2017, it was moved that the Minutes be taken as read and approved.

Proposed and Seconded. Approved.

**3. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

I am able to report another successful year for Trebah as evidenced by the accounts before us which I would remind you relate to our trading period up to 31 January of this year.

The financial position of the Trust has continued in an upward direction established particularly over the last five years. During that period we have seen a steady increase in our profitability and thus in our finances. This has been achieved through planned and careful house-keeping and budgeting whilst (and it is an important caveat) at the same time committing finances to the garden and our amenities to enhance the visitors’ experience. The Amphitheatre immediately comes to mind. Next year of course Brexit is the unknown factor which could adversely affect our trading position.

2018 has not been without its problems. We experienced for South-West Cornwall some rather extreme weather which naturally affected the garden. Nature is a fast

healer however and fortunately it has not been too long before the garden has recovered.

Many of you will know that we hosted the film crew and cast of a new production of the "Secret Garden" which is set in Yorkshire. The producers, however, could not resist the Gunnera Forest in the middle of Trebah Garden and this is included in the film. Good publicity for Trebah when the film comes out.

The Amphitheatre hosted an extensive programme during 2018 which has been well received and the 2019 programme seeks to build on the growing success of the Amphitheatre.

We have much in the pipeline as we are looking always to develop the garden. In fact we have no fewer than three major projects underway albeit that two of the projects are interrelated.

The question of the access to the beach and how this could be improved has been exercising our minds for some considerable time. A little thinking 'outside the box' produced a scheme for accessing on the level and diverting the coastal path, over which we currently gain access, over our new walkway instead. A complete reversal. We also have been looking at the question of works to secure and repair the beach, enlargement of the military memorial relating to the D-day embarkation, and the possibility of the provision of WCs near the bottom of the garden in addition. The Trust had earmarked £100,000 matched funding from other sources. We are not able to 'cherry pick' and carry out part of the various works only as far as the Heritage Lottery Fund is concerned. It is all or nothing. Now, where have heard these sentiments recently?

Regardless of the success or otherwise of these applications for matched funding, the Trust will from the £100,000 earmarked, be able from its own resources to carry out the beach access and ancillary works and the installation of a military pavilion in readiness for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day on the 6 June 2019.

The boilers serving the Hibbert Centre are now time expired and we have been looking as to how to replace them and at the same time enhance our 'green' credentials, to match our switch to solar panels. After due consideration we have opted for ground source heating as this fits well with our main project of the provision for a walled garden where the tennis court currently stands. The walled garden is an amenity that a garden of the size of Trebah would normally have had, and of course will be sited on virtually the only piece of land in the garden which is level. Although for general use by our public, uppermost in the Trustees minds, is the provision of a section of the garden, for the less able and less mobile visitors. It is to be built in traditional style fitting for the mid-Victorian property and the ground source piping supplying the Centre fits well under the Walled Garden. The works for both will dovetail conveniently in to one operation.

Busy days ahead therefore for the Trust and very little would be possible were it not for the "family of workers" we have at our disposal. Our staff most ably led by Nigel Burnett are deserving of fulsome praise not only for their achievements, but also for the welcoming atmosphere they create, very much appreciated by our visitors. My fellow Trustees give many hours to the cause of Trebah and much sage advice can be heard in our various committee meetings. Grateful thanks go to them in addition.

Over recent years we have built up an enthusiastic team of volunteers working in the garden and in addition stewarding our events in the Amphitheatre and elsewhere in the garden. A special thanks goes to them. On a sad note we have recently lost a very

good friend to the garden, Chris Kessell who owned and ran the farm immediately adjoining Trebah and on whose land part of our car-park stands. I am sure the members would wish me to extend our deep sympathy to Jean, his wife, coupled with the Trust's gratitude for his support and friendship over the years.

We all share, whether we are Trustees, Staff or Volunteers a commonality of purpose, working for a charitable organisation of which we feel very proud, serving the public on many levels and thus ensuring the "continuance of the garden in perpetuity". Over the years we have come a long way, to become and maintain, our status of a major attraction in the West Country and we must be ever vigilant in this cause. This concludes my report.

#### **4. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

James Hodgson of Hodgsons Accountants was unable to attend but produced the audited accounts and financial report of the financial year ended 31st January 2018 which was read out. Approved.

#### **5. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

It was recommended that Hodgsons be re- appointed. Proposed and seconded. Approved.

#### **6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

In accordance with the Articles of Association, Carolyn Brodie, Gillian Pipkin, Sue Nathan and Ray Townsend offered themselves for re-election to the Council of Management. Proposed and Seconded. Approved.

Mike Harvey who had been co-opted was formally appointed as a new Trustee. Proposed and Seconded.

#### **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**