

Annual General Meeting of The Henry Doubleday Research Association (known as Garden Organic)

DRAFT Minutes of the **33rd Annual General Meeting** held at **3.00pm on Friday 18 September 2020 at Garden Organic, Ryton Organic Gardens, Coventry, CV8 3LG**

Present

Trustees: Margaret Eyre (Chair); Steve Howell (Treasurer)

Executive Team:

James Campbell (Chief Executive); Julie Court (Chief Operating Office & Company Secretary); Hannah Rogers (Director of Membership & Communications); Trish Henderson (Executive Assistant)

9 members of Garden Organic

1. Introduction and Welcome by the Chair

- 1.1. The meeting was chaired by Margaret Eyre (ME), Chair of the Board of Trustees who welcomed everyone to the 2020 AGM of the Henry Doubleday Research Association, known as Garden Organic (GO). It was advised that the AGM had been rescheduled from June to September, and from Cumbria to Ryton due to Covid-19.
- 1.2. ME advised that social distance measures were being adhered to at all times.
- 1.3. ME extended her grateful thanks to the gardening team at GO who were in the process of building the new demonstration garden within GO's tenanted space.

2. Apologies for Absence

- 2.1. The Chair passed on apologies from 48 members who had given their proxy votes to the chair. It was confirmed that with those present in the room the meeting was quorate.

3. Minutes of the 32nd AGM held Thursday 20 June 2019 at St Fagans National Museum of History, Cardiff, CF5 6XB

- 3.1. The minutes of the 32nd AGM held on Thursday 20 June 2019 were confirmed as a correct record. The Chair asked for a proposer to formally approve the accuracy of the minutes. The proposer was James Campbell and the seconder was Margaret Eyre.

4. Presentation of the 2019 Annual Report on Garden Organic's activities

- 4.1. James Campbell (JaC), Chief Executive, presented the Annual Report on the Charity's activities in 2019. It was noted that:
 - 4.1.1. The sale of the Ryton site to Coventry University was completed in September 2019, and as ME had advised earlier the new demonstration garden was under construction.
 - 4.1.2. The 2019 Financial outturn was better than forecast. 2019 left Garden Organic well positioned to face the future with an increased focus on our core charitable aims of getting more people growing and gardening organically.
 - 4.1.3. Covid-19 had presented GO with some challenges, but provided some opportunities too.
 - 4.1.4. As we move into the future, we can all be assured that the charity will continue to represent organic growers, will encourage and support those converting to organic practice, and press policy-makers and legislators to acknowledge and act on the views and values of the millions of growers and gardeners across the UK

who want a kinder, gentler and more sustainable environment for future generations to inherit.

5. Presentation of Consolidated Financial Statements 2019 by the Treasurer

5.1. The Chair asked the Treasurer to present the Consolidated Financial Statements 2019.

5.2. SH advised that the consolidated Financial Statements had been made available on the charity's website, had been made available by post if required. It was noted that:

5.2.1. We finished 2019 with a small unrestricted surplus.

5.2.2. Our net current assets position ended the year at a very healthy position, including the cash received on the sale of Ryton Organic Gardens. The sale of the site also enabled the Charity to pay off all of its outstanding loan and mortgage balances. Trustees were investing the funds from the sale of the Ryton site to generate future income for the charity.

6. Adoption of the Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for 2019

6.1. The Treasurer asked for a proposer to adopt the annual report and consolidated financial statements for 2019.

6.2. The proposer was George Browning and the seconder was Bob Haskins.

7. Appointment of Auditors 2020

7.1. The Treasurer recommended along with the agreement of the Trustees, that the existing auditors Wilkins Kennedy be re-appointed as auditors for the coming year. The proposer was Bob Haskins and the seconder was George Browning.

8. Election of Board Members

8.1. The Chair advised that each year a number of trustees had to step down from being a trustee under the rules of our Memorandum & Articles of Association to ensure that there was a constant rotation. The trustees due to retire in 2020 were Marjan Bartlett-Freriks, Philippa Lyons and Kevin Wissett-Warner, Marjan Bartlett-Freriks, and Kevin Wissett-Warner wished to stand for another term and Philippa Lyons had served two terms as a Trustee, so was required to step down. Rachel De Thample and Renee Elliott were co-opted trustees, but were stepping down.

8.2. A request had gone out to the membership in The Organic Way and one nominee came forward Roger Hoyle. Under the current Articles of Association, the number of nominees was less than the number of places on the Board. Therefore the Board of Trustees exercised the discretion that a ballot was not required. The Chair advised that Marjan Bartlett-Freriks, and Kevin Wissett-Warner were re-elected for a further term, and Roger Hoyle was elected for a first term. It was noted Judith Wayne and Andrew Collins were elected as Vice-chair(s) by the Board of Trustees to serve a further three year term to 2023

8.3. ME extended her grateful thanks to Philippa Lyons, in her absence on behalf of the Board of the Trustees for all her hard work on behalf of the Board since 2013.

The Chair closed the meeting.

Chair

Date

For further information, please contact The Company Secretary by email at enquiries@gardenorganic.org.uk or by telephone on 024 7630 3517