

THACS

TEWIN HORTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

Minutes of the twenty-first Annual General Meeting held on Monday 27th February 2023 at 7.30.

Present

Committee members: Ray Keppler (Chair), Malcolm Allen (Treasurer), Tina Lord (Secretary), Terry Brand, Lynne Burgess, Alice Greenwood, Kristina Lawson.

Other members: Joanne Allen, Peter Burgess, Anna Clark, Michael Clark, John Gilley, Linda Gilley, Janet Gordon, Mavis Haggard, Anne Hall, Jim Hall, Alan Puddefoot, Judy Puddefoot, Roe Hill, Bridget Keppler, David King, Jilly King, David Room, Jane Room, Graham Spring, Keith St. Pier, Marie St. Pier, Geoff Whitbourn, Sue Whitbourn, Elaine Wulcko, Sarah Yonell.

1. Apologies for absence

Susan Fletcher, Brian Greenwood, Joy Lawson, Martin Taylor, Hilary Tipping.

2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM

These were approved without amendment.

Proposed: Lynne Burgess

Seconded: Mike Clark

3. Chair's Report for 2022

Ray Keppler (RK) referred attendees to the website or the paper copies of the report available at the meeting, if they had not read it already.

4. Treasurer's Report for 2022

RK said the Treasurer's report and the accounts for 1st November 2021 to 31st October 2022 had been made available on the website or were available as a paper copy at the meeting. The accounts were accepted by the membership.

Proposed: Ray Keppler

Seconded: Alice Greenwood

5. Viability of THACS

RK stated that normally the election of committee members and officers would follow at this point of the AGM. However, he explained that he first needed to review the viability of the society and ask for the meeting's approval for the proposed way forward. The three officers {RK, Malcolm Allen (MA) and Tina Lord (TL)} along with one committee member {Alice Greenwood (AG)} were standing down. There remained two committee members (Terry Brand and Lynne Burgess), as well two newcomers, co-opted since the last AGM (Kristina Lawson and Martin Taylor), who were willing to stand for election, none of whom wanted to take on the officer roles. This meant that THACS was unable to function as before, particularly as there would be no designated treasurer.

RK went on to say that the recruitment campaign had failed to attract new candidates for any of the officer roles. After the EGM on 4th November, a questionnaire was sent out to the wider membership to ascertain the importance of THACS events to them and

their views on the future of the society. RK thanked Peter Burgess for his assistance in setting up the on-line survey. 57 people completed the survey and the results were as follows:

Scenario	Yes	No
Continue but with a reduced amount of events.	54	3
If a volunteer is not available, should THACS pay a Treasurer?	35	22
Cease all activities after the AGM and mothball the Society, ready to be revived at a later date.	23	34
Close the Society after the AGM and dispose of all its assets.	7	50

RK stated that the preferred option of reducing events was not viable without a Treasurer, but the idea of paying someone to fill this role appeared to divide opinion and was of dubious viability. Consequently, this option had been abandoned. Since closing the Society down completely was not popular with members, there remained the option of mothballing THACS, in the hope that it would be revived in the future.

RK said that his proposed way forward was as follows:

- 1) To establish a team whose aim would be to mothball the Society, completing the project by the end of THACS' financial year (31.10.23). The team would consist of RK as Project Manager, MA and TL.
- 2) This option would also keep the THACS committee ticking over, ready to run events and welcome newcomers.
- 3) In order to give the mothballing project the necessary legitimacy and accountability, RK asked the members to re-elect himself and MA to their current positions as Chair and Treasurer on the understanding that they would not be doing anything other than managing the mothballing project and supporting the skeleton committee with any events they wished to organise.

If the AGM approved of this proposal, RK invited the membership to show their approval by re-electing himself and MA to their current posts on the basis set out above.

6. Election of Officers, Committee and Auditor for 2023

The following were elected to continue their existing roles:

Post	Name	Year No.	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Ray Keppler	Fifteenth	Mike Clarke	Mavis Hagar
Vice Chair	Vacant			
Treasurer	Malcolm Allen	Twelfth	Ray Keppler	Terry Brand
Secretary	Vacant			
Committee Member	Terry Brand	Twenty-third	Ray Keppler	Lynne Burgess

Committee Member	Lynne Burgess	Fourteenth	Ray Keppler	Mike Clark
Committee Member	Kristina Lawson	First	Ray Keppler	Lynne Burgess
Committee Member	Martin Taylor	First	Ray Keppler	Lynne Burgess
Auditor	Vacant			

RK further informed the members that the remaining vacancies meant that THACS was in violation of its constitution and rules. However, as the constitution was silent on the consequences of this, he proposed that they be suspended for the foreseeable future. This was proposed by Ray Keppler, seconded by Terry Brand and agreed by the members present.

Thank you gifts were presented to TL, AG and Graham Spring, who was standing down as auditor. At the end of the meeting RK was also presented with a gift, as a thank you for his long service to THACS.

7. Preview of 2023 activities

RK gave an overview of the mothballing project and how it would be tackled.

8. Open Forum

The evening concluded with questions from the members. This included a question as to whether payment of subscriptions would continue. Members were told that they will probably be advised to cancel their Standing Order later in the year, but that they would remain members of the Society unless it completely closed down. RK said that cups and trophies should be kept until they were collected.

9. Date and time of 2024 AGM

This was not announced at the AGM, but will take place in Tewin memorial Hall on Monday 26th February 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting was then closed.