



PlantNetwork
Connecting gardens, sharing skills

Minutes of the twenty second Annual General Meeting
14.00 Thursday 19th April 2018 at The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

(1) **Welcome**

Simon Toomer, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of PlantNetwork, welcomed all to the meeting.

(2) **Minutes of the twenty-first Annual General Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2017 at The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh were approved and signed as a correct record.

(3) **Report for the year to 31 March 2018, by Simon Toomer Chairman of the Board**

(3.1) Meetings:

The following conferences and training meetings had been held in the financial year April 2017 to March 2018 year, with presentations and reports posted on the website. 225 attendees (including speakers).

Training days:

Plant Records. Mount Stuart. May 3rd & 4th

Plant prop, pests & diseases. RHS Wisley. June 20th

IPM. Cambridge Botanic Garden Oct 3rd & 4th

Tree establishment. Westonbirt Arboretum. Oct 4th

Managing plant collections in wider institutions. Treborth. Oct 19th

Visit to Hans Sloane Herbarium. NHM. Dec 6th

ABS and Nagoya Protocol update. Chester Zoo. March 16th

Annual Conference 2017:

Annual conference 'Connecting gardens and engaging people' RBGE. April 26th & 27th

(3.2) Membership

2017– 18 membership year comprised 74 institutional members and over 100 personal members (including students and complimentary members).

Membership rates remain the same at £400 for a large organisation and £150 for a small organisation. Personal membership categories, including students, range from £15 to £40.

(3.3) Sponsorship

PlantNetwork has three sponsors:

2017 – 2018: Silver sponsor - DragonFli and Bronze Sponsor – The Garden Label and Sign Company

2018 – 2019: Silver sponsor - British Sugar Topsoil

(4) **Accounts**

Accounts to 31st March 2018 have yet to be submitted to our Examiners, Critchleys, at the time of the AGM. Records to date show income from subscription amounted to £14,450, with total income, including conferences and job advertisements, £43,923 and total outgoings £31,607, providing a surplus of £12,316 to maintain PlantNetwork operations into the next year. This represents an increase compared to year end 31st March 2017 which generated a surplus of £6,416 after running at a loss in two previous financial years. Total funds carried forward at year end 2017 amounted to £32,005. No grants were received during the 2016/17 financial year.

The Board has a *duty of care* and a *duty of prudence* in running PlantNetwork: policies on risk, financial reserves, and internet and email usage were reviewed regularly. See not on GDPR below.

(5) **Appointment of external examiners**

Critchley's of Oxford will continue to act as external examiners and will examine the accounts for the year to 31st March 2018.

Critchley's also act as our Registered Office Address

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(6) **Charitable purposes**

Members were reminded of the Charitable and public benefit purpose of PlantNetwork. Charges for meetings continue to be very competitive with comparable training days and we continue to respond to members' needs and suggestions for future training events and website content.

(7) **Board Activities 2017-2018**

- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force 25th May 2018
The PlantNetwork Board have been discussing the implications of the GDPR to ensure we maintain compliance.
- PlantNetwork Board Strategy Day June 2018
The Board will meet in June to discuss the future direction of PlantNetwork, effective working, delivery to members and future membership categories. This will lead on from a brief overview of our business and marketing commissioned from Bloom.

(8) **Election of officers to the Board of Trustees**

The Board for 2017–18 has been:

Dr Matthew Jebb (Hon. President), Simon Toomer (Chairman), Faye Tuffrey (Vice-Chair), Christopher Weddell (Treasurer), Rob Brett (Co Treasurer), Chris Bisson, Ros Burnley, Juliet Day, Stephen Herrington Don Murray, Sara Redstone, and Rupert Wilson. Natalie Chivers was co-opted to the Board in April 2017.

The diversity in experience of Trustees brought a range of skills and expertise to the Board. The Articles of Association of the Company require one-third of Board members to retire at each AGM; they may stand for re-election. Board members standing down are Rob Brett, Ros Burnley, Don Murray and Simon Toomer. All wish to be re-elected.

Invites for nominations were circulated to the membership prior to the AGM. No further nominations have been received.

The Board nominates Natalie Chivers for election to the Board and Rob Brett, Ros Burnley, Don Murray and Simon Toomer for re-election to the Board.

(9) **AOB**

No other business was tabled.

The meeting closed at 14.30pm.