



161st Annual General Meeting of the Institute

Held online on Monday 29th September 2025 at 18:00

MINUTES

Chair: President, Natasha Lloyd

In attendance:

Full Council (Natasha Lloyd, Emma Barker, Nathalie Chidley, Kamaldeep Sidhu, Jo Webster), Chief Executive James Wiltshire, plus members of the Institute, detailed at the end of the minutes using their registered names.

Item 1: Presidential address:

This was made by the Institute's President, Natasha Lloyd.

Item 2: Formal opening of the AGM:

The chair formally opened the meeting.

Item 3: Appointment of scrutineers:

James Wiltshire & Camilla Ellis appointed.

- Proposer – Emma Dalton
- Seconder – Phil Deakin
- 97% of 98 votes were to appoint the scrutineers.

Item 4: Apologies for absence:

From Hannah Sylvester

Item 5: Obituaries:

The passings of Anne Chiotis, Paul Chenery and Mary Bove were noted. A period of silence was observed.

Item 6 : Minutes of the 160th Annual General Meeting held on 14th May 2024 online.

These minutes had previously been circulated. Alison Morton highlighted that in Item 11 there was reference to her discussing declarations of interest, which should have been attributed to Alison Denham. The minutes including this amendment were put up for adoption.

Proposer – Phil Deakin

Seconder – Emma Dalton

98% of 84 votes were to adopt the minutes.

Item 7: Matters arising from the minutes (previously circulated).

None raised.

Ordinary Business

Item 8: Ordinary Business 1 - Annual Report (as circulated).

Laura Stannard asked why Balens were not involved in the complaint against a member referenced in the report. Jo Webster replied that the Institute worked with Balens on that matter, but it still required considerable input.

Laura Stannard asked, in respect of the answer to her pre-submitted question, for clarification on what the 'Opt-in' meant for the Power of Plants Magazine, and details of the cost per issue. Jo Webster explained this was an operational matter for Council, but this meant members had to consciously opt to receive a printed copy of the magazine where previously they received one unless they opted out. Jo highlighted that Council were looking at the value that the magazine offers against the cost of printing and distributing it, whilst considering the positive feedback the magazine receives from members.

Elena Renier submitted a question about UK degree courses and accredited course quality, and why CNM is opening branches in Europe whilst NIMH is shrinking. Kamaldeep Sidhu responded that all accredited courses are run independently

from NIMH, and that our accreditation role is to ensure that graduates are well prepared for membership and professional standards are maintained. We are continually looking to strengthen this process. CNM operates on a different model with a different function as a direct provider of training courses, but we should consider what they are doing as part of our wider activity.

The report was approved by voting under Ordinary Business 1.

Item 9: Ordinary Business 2 - Adoption of Financial Accounts (previously circulated).

Katherine Bellchambers Wilson asked why, when a return to profit was projected by the President at last year's AGM, a loss had been made in 2024. Nathalie Chidley responded that this Council has been working though this area in detail over the last three months. A number of areas have been addressed, including the accuracy of budgeting, and the lack of a qualified bookkeeper, and Council is committed to starting to return to profit.

Dee Atkinson asked a question regarding grant income, and Nathalie Chidley summarised the response to the pre-submitted question. Nathalie recognised that the filleted accounts do not have a huge amount of detail, and that we are looking, with our accountants and new bookkeeper, to add more detail to how accounts can be presented. It was confirmed that Council does have good oversight of financial performance.

Frances Watkins asked how many proxy votes were received and how many members were in the meeting. Emma Barker confirmed that 67 proxy votes were cast and 121 members were in the meeting. There are 586 members as referenced in the Annual Report. At Frances' suggestion Council agreed that producing a list of membership numbers by each category would be really helpful, and that we will set this up within our CRM system. Nathalie Chidley confirmed that membership numbers had not been decreasing.

The Accounts were adopted by voting under Ordinary Business 2.

Item 10: Ordinary Business 3 - Election of Accountant 2023

Council proposed that we re-appoint Sidaways Ltd in Exeter.

Laura Stannard asked why for the May AGM it was originally proposed to appoint a different accountant. Jo Webster responded that this was to look to reduce our accountancy fees, but that in the current environment Council decided that having consistency of accountants was important.

This was approved by voting under Ordinary Business 3.

Item 11: Ordinary Business 4-9 - Election of Directors to Council: (as circulated)

All nominees were given a two minute slot to address the meeting.

It was confirmed that Kim Walker holds an Associate membership, and that is why she has been nominated as an Independent Director.

The following directors were elected by voting under Ordinary Business 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

*President – Natasha Lloyd
Director – Nathalie Chidley(Re-election)
Director – Kamaldeep Sidhu(Re-election)
Director – Jo Webster(Re-election)
Director – Willow Murton
Director – Kim Walker*

Item 12: Ordinary Business 10-11 - Election of Accreditation Board Members

Nicholas Edwards addressed the meeting to introduce himself, Caroline Stuart was unable to do so due to internet issues.

Both were elected under Ordinary Business 10 & 11.

It was agreed that the details of Accreditation Board members and their credentials should be added to the Institute's website for transparency.

Special Business

Item 13: Special Business as presented

It was confirmed during these items that Council had sought legal advice and the special business as presented are all categorised as motions, with 51% of votes in favour required to carry them. Motions are advisory.

Special Business 1 - That the National Institute of Medical Herbalists reinstates the role of Honorary General Secretary with immediate effect from 29 September 2025, the date of the AGM.

Alison Denham spoke to the motion as proposer, and Jo Webster responded on behalf of Council, outlining why Council opposed the motion.

This was approved by voting under Special Business 1.

Special Business 2 - That the National Institute of Medical Herbalists reinstates the role of Honorary Treasurer with immediate effect from the date of the 2025 AGM currently scheduled for 29 September 2025.

Katherine Bellchambers Wilson spoke to the motion as proposer, and Jo Webster responded on behalf of Council, outlining why Council opposed the motion.

This was approved by voting under Special Business 2.

Special Business 3 - That the NIMH reinstates the Health and Care Professions Council based Continuing Professional Development scheme with immediate effect from the date of the 2025 AGM currently scheduled for 29th September 2025.

Laura Stannard spoke to the motion as proposer, and Emma Barker responded on behalf of Council, outlining why Council supported the motion.

This was approved by voting under Special Business 3.

Special Business 4 - That the National Institute of Medical Herbalists discloses the full and detailed accounts of the Power of Plants Festival from 2022 – 2025 inclusive with all NIMH Members.

Desiree Shelley spoke to the motion as proposer, and Nathalie Chidley responded on behalf of Council, outlining why Council opposed the motion.

This was approved by voting under Special Business 4.

Special Business 5 - To reinstate live participation from members at the AGM.

Peter Neumann spoke to the motion as proposer, and Natasha Lloyd responded behalf of Council, outlining why Council supported the motion.

This was approved by voting under Special Business 5.

Item 14: Other Essential Business

A further question was asked about how the results of the Independent review will get communicated. Jo Webster responded outlining that to protect the integrity of the process, Council cannot make any commitments until the review has concluded.

Desiree Shelley asked about the breakdown of attendees at Power of Plants Festival. Nathalie Chidley stated that Council would circulate these. Nathalie also outlined that although the losses that PoP has contributed to are uncomfortable, there have been periods before, particularly in the 2010s, where the Institute has made losses. Jo Webster also highlighted that when the Council of the time decided to run Power of Plants, they accepted that, during its establishment, it would generate losses.

A vote of thanks to all on Council was proposed by Katherine Bellchambers-Wilson, seconded Dee Atkinson.

End of Business at 20:03

Members attending:

Mel Hornby
Cath Couzens
Lesley Dawson
Eleanor Devereux
Emma Dalton
Natasha Humble
Cole Edwards
Meru Parmar
Wendy Budd
Georgina Pugh
Oliver Rathbone
Nikki Darrell
Frances Watkins
Ebru Ertem
Schia Mitchell Sinclair
Amparo Aracil
Ruth Austin
Rebecca Murray
Philip Deakin
Inga Poulsen
Nadia Corp
Patricia Strong
Alison Denham
K Wilson
Nik Bucceri
Helen Kearney
Paula McCreary
Liz Lillicrap
Sue McCrea
Robyn Soma
Kate Bond
Alison Morton
Desiree Shelley
Dee Atkinson
Natasha Richardson
Sarah Lederman
Canda Diacono
Lucy Wade
Catharine Huet
Clare Lewis

Willow Murton
Helen Compton
Helen Duxbury
Melinda McDougall
Simon Mills
Andrew Cowling
Rachel Purdey
Jemma Ward
calder bendle
Kevin Orbell-McSean
Stephanie Gonzalez Castro
Marie Oxley
sarah cowman
Janet O'Donnell
Lyn Blythe
Suzann Elsahen
Heidi Nisbett
Penelope Ody
Fiona McIntyre
Nick Saunders
Sue Evans
Pamela Spence
Steve Kippax
Hazel Holt
Olivia Cliff
Anne Derby
Shona McNair
Billi Leach
Mayasuni Heath
Christine Steward
Roisin Mclaughlin
Varsha Soneji
Anita Ralph
Annwen Jones
Carol Thorogood
Victoria Wright
Delphine Sayre
Bergitte McGovern
Laura Stannard
katie beswick
Rachel Simmons
Katie Dobiesz
PAUL HAMBLY
Lynda Jones
Kerry Harvey
Lizzie Stephenson
Frances Hambly
Natalie Blechner
Rosemary Westlake
Jonathan Treasure
Emma Louise Cowley
Caroline Drew
Hannah Charman
Cathy MacLean

Kate Parker
Kim Walker
Becs Griffiths
Louise Idoux
Lyndsay Murphy
Jody Knapp
Marian Shanley
Kathie B
melissa ronaldson
Susan O'Donoghue
Richard Adams
Michelle Clarkson
Hananja Brice-Ytsma
Elena Renier
Gail Farrow
Caroline Quayle
Gillian Leddy Prescott
Caroline Stuart
Julian Barker
Peter Neumann
Jenny Carden-Porrett
Nikki Hawkes
Hera Jonas
Hazel
Jo Farren
Rebecca Marsden
Sally Bowers
Andrea Cooper
Sarah Hughes

Questions marked as answered during the meeting (excluding duplicates and those covered elsewhere in the minutes):

Question	Asker Name	Answer	Answer Name
Please can you explain the strategy for reducing the year on deficit ?	Anonymo us Attendee	We are working on it and we have got an excellent book keeper starting who will work with us to reestablish rigorous systems of book keeping so that we can then carefully plan how to move forward with clear budgets	Jo Webster
why were we sent 2023 accounts in the first place?	Desiree Shelley	This is part of the remit of the independent review so we cannot discuss this. I am sure you understand.	Jo Webster
Why is no-one in the office bookkeeping? T	Laura Stannard	They are but we are reviewing allocation of resources and demands on time to decide how best to allocate our limited resources to avoid being in this position again.	Jo Webster
Please can you tell us why you are not telling the membership who is producing the external review is	K Wilson	Because we were advised not to until the interviews had been completed.	Jo Webster
Would it provide more confidence in our recent accounts to conduct an audit?	Melinda McDougall	We are considering this.	Jo Webster

How many professional members of NIMH are there? to the number attending today or voting relevant xx	Jemma Ward	586	The Institute
Given the accounts were so late, was sideways responsible	K Wilson	Independent review remit Katherine so we cannot pre-empt that	Jo Webster
If we dont know the answer to K Wilson's question - how can we vote on their appointment?	Catharine Huet	Sorry Catherine is this about the accountant? We have no concerns about Sidaways	Jo Webster
Once the independent review is completed will members have access to the findings and be given an explanation as to what has happened?	Amparo Aracil	When the outcome is passed to us, it will be our responsibility to decide what is in the best interests of the Institute. We cannot know what that will be until we receive it.	Jo Webster
What is the anticipated timing of the Independent review?	Frances Watkins	Final interviews in the next few weeks and then I need to ask the Independent reviewer how long it will take to turn around at that point. It is hard for them to say prior to completing all of the interviews.	Jo Webster
Natasha was elected as treasurer last year. Did she not keep the accounting situation in order?	Laura Stannard	Again Laura, this is a matter the independent reviewer is covering	Jo Webster
Not really a question but I must say I am shocked and saddened to know the nimh has not had a book keeper. Surely this is an appointment that should be mandatory	Wendy Budd	This council has appointed an excellent one.	Jo Webster
How many interviews are they undertaking?	Laura Stannard	In excess of 8	Jo Webster
Can we know who they are interviewing or is that also something we cannot be told?	Laura Stannard	I am so sorry Laura but we cannot give any further information.	Jo Webster

Is Jo meant to speak to promote herself or against Katherine?	Alison Denham	It was up to me what I did with my 2 minutes Alison. I don't feel I spoke against Katherine, I spoke about what I was for.	Jo Webster
When voting for NIMH council, are there a set number that can be elected? Ie, if we vote for newcomers, are we risking others seats? Thank you	Kate Bond	If you vote for new directors, there is no risk to other seats.	Jo Webster
as another member has asked - what is an 'independant' member	Nadia Corp	Sorry does this relate to Kim Walker? Kim is an independent because she is an associate member.	Jo Webster
Is Kim Walker a MNIMH?	Steve Kippax	Yes she is an associate member	Jo Webster
This is not correct A clear role description for Honorary General Secretary was written before	Laura Stannard	Thanks Laura If you still have access to this and could forward it to us, it will help us with our iteration of this documentation.	Jo Webster
I can do that, and for all other roles that I have not deleted	Laura Stannard	That would be great thank you	Jo Webster
Is Nicholas Edwards a MNIMH?	Desiree Shelley	Yes	Emma Barker
Presumably you also have the Directors Handbook?	Laura Stannard	Yes we have this	Jo Webster
As a previous HGS, the job description is currently in front of me	Rosemary Westlake	Please do forward it to us!	Jo Webster

Members need to know this is not correct	Laura Stannard	Special business is not a special resolution	Jo Webster
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The M&A states in Art 26 that all business that is not ordinary business is deemed special

26. All business put before the Members by the Council that is transacted at a General Meeting, and also all that is transacted at an AGM (with the exception of the consideration of the accounts, balance sheets, and the ordinary report of the Council and Auditors, the election of the Council and other officers in the place of those retiring and the appointment of, and the fixing of, the remuneration of the Auditors), shall be deemed special.

There's more than money when it comes to cost. What's the social, political, marketing and awareness, and community building cost of NOT running it?	Natasha Richards on	Quite - and this is what we need to weigh up	Jo Webster
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Not a question, but I'm seeing huge success from PoP in terms of public perception, engagement, understanding - as well as from other modalities and disciplines	Anonymous Attendee	Agreed	Jo Webster
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Not a question but an observation that the POP is extremely valuable to members in regard to building our sense of	Rachel Purdey	Agreed - we need to bear this and not just finances in mind.	Jo Webster
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community and connection to each other.

But council should be able to give that granular detail if asked and you should be keeping those details

K Wilson

It is not about whether we have the details or not it is about what is an operational matter for council

Jo Webster

POP seems like the a good showcase for NIMH and a good way to attract more NIMH members.

Dee Atkinson

Thanks Dee

Jo Webster

With my business head on, I would say it was very inclusive and cross over between industry, the public and professional herbal medicine.

2014 to 2017 were in the red. I took on the role of treasurer in 2018 and went back into profit

Emma Dalton

Thanks Emma

Jo Webster