



158th Annual General Meeting of the Institute

Held online on Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 18:00

MINUTES

Chair: President, Robyn Soma

Minutes: Jenna Chynoweth

In attendance:

Full Council (Emma Barker, Katie Dobiesz, Hananja Brice-Ytsma, Melinda McDougall, Paula McCreary, Martin Schoenbeck and Robyn Soma) plus members of the Institute.

1. **Presidential address:** was made by the Institute's President, Robyn Soma
2. **Formal opening of the AGM:** The chair formally opened the meeting
3. **Appointment of scrutineers:** UK Engage appointed.

Proposer – Laura Stannard
Seconder – Katherine Bellchambers
4. **Apologies for absence:** Alison Morton and Becs Griffiths.
5. **Obituaries:** These were noted as Barbara Griggs, Morag Weatherstone, Catherine Johnson and Jean-Louis Riols. A period of silence was observed.

Ordinary Business

6. **Minutes of the 157th Annual General Meeting held on 26th September 2021 online.** These minutes had previously been circulated. Those present recorded them as a true record.

Proposer – Phil Deakin
Seconder – Emma Dalton
7. **Matters arising from the minutes (previously circulated).** Robyn Soma confirmed to Frances Watkins that member numbers (Members 597, Students 525 – April 2022) were included in the final version of the 2022 Annual Report. Robyn also confirmed that Find A Herbalist requires members to opt-in, so the numbers on there do not represent our formal membership numbers.

Laura Stannard asked if we had sent our loyal greetings to the Queen – Robyn Soma confirmed that this happens at our conference every year, and will happen in October.
8. **Annual Report (as circulated).** No queries on the Annual Report.

The reports were approved by voting under Ordinary Business 1.

9. **Adoption of Financial Accounts (previously circulated).** Question from Peter Neumann asking about the increase in PR and Marketing spend. Martin Schoenbeck, Honorary Treasurer, responded that this was down to our increased investment in PR and Marketing support with external experts, some accounting rebalances, and the expenditure on merchandise purchases.

The Accounts were approved by voting under Ordinary Business 2.

10. **Election of Accountant 2021**

Council proposed that we continue to use Francis Clark in Exeter for a further twelve months. This was approved by voting under Ordinary Business 3.

11. **Election of Directors to Council:** (as circulated)

Director – Paula McCreary

Director – Mary Tassell

This was approved by voting under Ordinary Business 4 and 5,

12. **Ordinary and Special Resolutions** (as circulated)

Special Resolutions 1 – 5

Robyn Soma summarised why Council had submitted these motions, and why they were not supported by the Council. Robyn then read out each of the five resolutions and highlighted the changes they related to.

There had been a pre-submitted query which had been previously circulated to the attendees.

Contributions were made to the discussion on these resolutions by Katherine Bellchambers, Laura Stannard Elena Renier and Emma Dalton.

The Special Resolutions were not passed by the member vote.

13. **Reminder to vote on Ordinary Business and Special Resolutions as presented.**

Open for one hour after meeting closes.

14. **Other Essential Business**

Thanks were given to Hananja Brice-Ytsma for her work on Council as she is standing down. Hananja gave a short speech of thanks.

Thanks were given to the head office team and the team at UK Engage for their work in making the AGM happen.

A vote of thanks and recognition to all on Council was proposed by Peter Neumann, and supported by Laura Stannard.

End of Business at 19:30