

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.

Notes to the motion

The Power of Plants Festival has been running for four years. The festival appears to have been heavily subsidised by Member subscriptions. Simultaneously the NIMH accounts for 2022 show Total Reserves falling by £50,704 and in 2023 show “Shareholders Funds*” reduced by £56,794. Losses between these two years are £107,498. At the end of 2023 “Shareholder Funds*” were £255,542, down from £363,040 in 2021. The Cash at Bank situation also shows erosion from £206,460 in 2021, to £85,273 by the end of 2023.

While not all losses may be attributed to the Power of Plants Festival, it is important for Members to know the costs associated with this event. Also to know that this is not detrimental to the future financial security of this historic and well-respected Institute. This proposed motion requires that the full and detailed accounts showing; full costs and expenses, profit and loss, subsidies and sponsorship, are disclosed and provided to all NIMH Members, for the four years that Power of Plants Festival has been in operation. The annual Financial Report circulated on 1st July 2025 stated that the 2024 Power of Plants Festival was intended to become “financially sustainable this year.” The Power of Plants Festival had made losses in the two previous years. If the future is to continue the Power of Plants Festival, the costs for this venture should be underwritten by sufficient sponsorship to cover all expected costs. Furthermore, for this sponsorship to be fully confirmed and secured, prior to any future financial commitments being made.

Can you please explain what does ‘financially sustainable’ mean? Is it self-funding? If it is a loss-making venture in 2025, it poses the question: can the NIMH afford to continue funding it? If after four years, the Power of Plants Festival has not broken even, it is imperative that the losses

sustained are halted - and that the NIMH reserves and operational cashflow are restored. This motion will give Members full information about the costs of running the Power of Plants Festival.

Note: * Discrepancy between 2022 and 2023 Accounts terminology; 2022 uses Total Reserves, but 2023 uses Shareholder Funds. NIMH Members are not Shareholders.

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