



The Royal Horticultural Society

Minutes of the 219th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society

held at 11:00am on Friday 14 July 2023
RHS Garden Hyde Hall

Approved by Members at the 2024 AGM

Members of Council present:

Keith Weed (President)	Lorna Parker
Matthew Lindsey-Clark (Treasurer)	Dr. David Rae
Nick Dunn	Darren Share
Tazim Essani	Prof. Nicola Spence
Wesley Kerr	Lady Xa Tollemache
Tony Kirkham	Ruth Willmott
Baroness Kate Lampard	

Also present:

Claire Austin (Council Member Elect)	Mark Norman , Director of Finance and Estates
Sue Beesley (Council Member Elect)	Martine Parnell , Director of Members, Marketing and Digital
Clare Matterson, Director General	Helena Pettit , Director of Gardens and Shows
Carole Goldsmith, Director of People	Jon Simpson, Director of IT
Dr Alistair Griffiths, Director of Science and Collections	Dr Tim Upson, Director of Horticulture, Education and Communities
Hayley Monckton, Director of Communications	Araba Webber, Chief of Staff Stacey Bailey (Company Secretary)

Apologies

Council: Mick Crawley, Pamela Maynard, Janet Walker

RHS Members: Rachel Oakley, Vivian Oakley

Welcome

The President welcomed members to the 219th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Royal Horticultural Society at RHS Garden Hyde Hall, thanked them for attending and provided an outline of the meeting.



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been met in the year 2022/23 with increases in membership, visitors to gardens and shows, partnerships, and work in communities and with schools.



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offer continues to be popular with a number of horticultural qualifications on offer.

- 1.6 Finally, the President celebrated the beautiful RHS floral display at the altar of Westminster Abbey including boughs from all five gardens at the recent coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Camilla.

2. Treasurer's Report

- 2.1 The Treasurer presented a summary of the RHS Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements 2022/23 which would be put before Members for formal approval later in the meeting.
- 2.2 The Treasurer highlighted that during 2021/22, the RHS broke records in almost every area of activity, with a remarkable return from the previous
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Jim Gardiner VMH
Rosy Hardy
The Rt Hon the Lord Heseltine
CH, PC
Robert Hillier OBE, VMH
Roy Lancaster CBE, VMH

Vicomte Philippe de
Spoelberch
Alan Titchmarsh MBE,
VMH, DL
Richard Webb VMH

- 4.17 In addition, Council has appointed Sarah Eberle, Mark Porter and Jon Wheatley to the office of Vice President for 2023/24.

g) Close of AGM

- 4.18 The President thanked those present and drew the formal proceedings of the AGM to a close.

5 Members' questions

- 5.1 Members attending the meeting asked the following questions, some of which had been tabled in advance of the AGM:
- 5.2 RHS Member Stephen Dalziel asked t04 T Tm0 g qudetx



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5.3 RHS Member Pauline Butcher asked two questions:

- *I would like to know why one of the pre-AGM tours was lawn care? need for bugs, wildlife, weeds and no chemicals. Why was this topic chosen?*

The Director of Horticulture, Education and Communities responded that this particular tour was chosen as it would be an opportunity for a long serving staff member approaching retirement who has cared for the lawns around Hilltop at RHS Garden Hyde Hall for many years, to share his knowledge and passion. The managed lawn areas at RHS Garden Hyde Hall offset some of the more intensive areas of horticulture in the garden as well as being managed to withstand the high footfall in this area. When the lawn requires irrigation, this is provided through the garden's own reservoir. Much of the outer estate is managed as long meadow grasslands rich in wildlife including butterflies, birds of prey and seven species of orchids. Finally, the development of the coronation meadow is a haven for wildlife and was developed using seed from a local nature reserve.

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