

MINUTES OF THE 28TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT TREBAH HOUSE, TREBAH GARDEN
ON
SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER 2019

1. PRESENT

Council of Management

Robert Dudley-Cooke (Chairman), Anthony Vyvyan, Carolyn Brodie, Lucie Nottingham, Ray Townsend, Sue Nathan, Harry Bradshaw, Charles Richardson, Mike Harvey

Apologies

Tim Hubbard, Peter Hodgson, Gillian Pipkin, Jane & Richard Martin, Jennifer Nias, Carole Perkin, Julie Phimister, Mr S & Mrs K Jones, Jo Penn, Prof Anthony Trinick, Ronald & Alida England, James Hodgson and Janet Mellor

In attendance

Nigel Burnett, Director

Members Present

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2. MINUTES OF THE 27th AGM HELD ON SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER 2018

All members having received a copy of AGM Minutes 2018, it was moved that the Minutes be taken as read and approved.

Proposed and Seconded. Approved by Richard Nathan and Lizzie Hoskin

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Our policy at Trebah throughout the austerity years and since has been one of caution when it has come to overheads, but with the understanding that with judicious spending we could add to the visitor attraction/amenity and in that way persuade them to return year after year.

The policy has been shown to be the right policy for the circumstances we are and have been faced with at Trebah and our budget forecasts year in year out have almost perfectly matched reality. The Trustees are most grateful to Nigel Burnett and the accounting staff for achieving such an exactitude which has of course facilitated our planning, knowing we were standing on firm ground.

As the financial constraints have lessened, we have been able to take on more projects, but if I might just reflect on what has been achieved during the lean years, and since.

A first priority for the Trustees (The Council of Management) was and is the financial stability of the Trust, the provision of sufficient reserves and the reducing of the bank

borrowing so as to be commensurate with income of the Trust. We have over the years achieved all these goals.

The second priority, to use our income-money flow on projects with tangible benefit for our visitors and to improve our infrastructure. Under this heading at the top of the list would come the Amphitheatre and the renovation and refurbishment of our restaurant. The provision of solar panels on the roof of our main building and the formal division of the house to provide a separate apartment for letting purposes on the first floor with all the ancillary works- re wiring – plumbing – work on the roof etc. These projects and smaller ones too, were all successfully completed at a time of austerity.

In addition, there has been a gradual but continuous upgrading of the garden after all it is why so many visitors come to Trebah every year and why we have such a healthy membership which I believe confirms our strategy to increase our visitor amenities. Our grateful thanks to Darren Dicky and his garden team for their dedication over many years, in achieving this goal in the garden.

Currently we have been involved with three major projects, two completed and one taken as far as the initial stage. For many years we have worked with the problem of access to the beach over the narrow footbridge which had been cause for concern to the Council of Management.

Some lateral thinking came up with the solution which was to take the coastal footpath which runs along the back of the beach over a new Trebah access to the beach on the level, which we have completed with various other beach works. Our visitors particularly with young children and pushchairs can now gain safe and convenient access.

The heating for the main building was becoming time expired and we therefore looked at replacement preferably with a new and eco-friendly solution. We chose “ground source heating” which dovetailed splendidly with our plans for the tennis court area. Work on the ground source heating are now complete and we are up and running if that is the correct expression. The site of the tennis court is therefore ready and available for the construction of our “new walled garden”, a project a long time in gestation. Planning consent has been obtained, the final layout and design resulting from many hours work given by our Garden Committee. The time frame is to have the Walled Garden completed and ready for our visitors in late Spring 2021 approximately 18 months from now.

The Walled Garden is obviously a very prestigious project for Trebah and will give Trebah an increased amenity providing not only for visitors to our main garden but also for visitors who wish “to stay on the level” so to speak, with particular emphasis on, an amenity for the less mobile.

It is an exciting project and will see Trebah leading the way for the less mobile members of society in having a garden specifically suitable for their needs.

It also provides Trebah with a walled garden which traditionally every house of quality and size would have had.

We have on the financial front moved over the more recent years into calmer waters and our trading position has continued to improve which enables us to contemplate projects of the size and nature we are undertaking whilst at the same time building our reserves. Remembering as always that the accounts under discussion today are historical in that they relate to the financial year to the end January 2019. James Hodgson has prepared a report which I will run through by way of explanation and

clarification of the accounts. The current year is most encouraging ahead of our budget forecast and indicating a profit surplus very much in line with the last three years.

We are indebted as ever to our loyal and hardworking staff who perform their duties always in a friendly and caring way which is so much appreciated by our visitors. My special thanks go to all of them. Trebah has at its disposal a Council of Management of some eleven Trustees who bring to the table a variety of talents and expertise and Trebah are, if I may say, jolly fortunate to have them.

We have sub committees, particularly the Management Committee who meet on a very regular basis with Nigel Burnett and the Garden Committee who have proved that the old saying “that you cannot garden by committee” is not correct certainly in the case of Trebah. All Trustees give of their time and expertise willingly and indeed free of charge to enhance the reputation and garden amenity that is Trebah and which makes it one of the foremost gardens of the United Kingdom a garden of which we can all be truly proud.

That concludes my report.

4. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

James Hodgson of Hodgsons Accountants was unable to attend but produced the audited accounts and financial report of the financial year ended 31st January 2019 which was read out. Approved by Robert Thompson and Brian Hoskin.

5. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

It was recommended that Hodgsons be re- appointed. Proposed and seconded. Approved by Ian Martin and Robert Thompson

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with the Articles of Association, Harry Bradshaw, Lucie Nottingham, Charles Richardson and Tim Hubbard offered themselves for re-election to the Council of Management. Proposed and Seconded. Approved by Janet Harvey and Ian Martin

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS