

Minutes of the 54th AGM of The Campden Society

7.30pm Thursday 27 April 2023 Chipping Campden Town Hall

Attendees: 49 members were present. Apologies: Donna & Mark Evans, Keyna Doran, Gill & John Lumsden, Sue & Mark Pritchard, Tim Sexton, Alex O'Donnell, Sally Dymott, Geoff & Paddy Carr.

1. Elizabeth Devas opened the meeting and expressed TCS shock and sadness at the terrible accident on 21st April, and extended condolences to all the families and friends of those involved.
2. The minutes of 53rd AGM were approved by a show of hands.
3. Annual Accounts: Geoffrey White presented the Treasurer's Report and Financial Accounts for year ending 31st December 2022 which had already been circulated and gave a short explanation. There were no questions.
4. Mark Kirkbride, the independent examiner, was thanked and re-appointed by a show of hands.
5. Annual Report: Elizabeth Devas presented the Annual Report of the Committee's Activities which had already been circulated including our work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan; Chipping Campden Design Guide; and Planning Committee.
6. WEO Report: Julianne Davis shared the highlights of the report by the Wolds End Orchard Sub Committee's Activities which had already been circulated including Glorious Grasslands project; the apple juice donation to the North Cotswolds Food Bank; the Art Afternoons; Apple Day with over 200 people; and the Summer's Town Picnic. She thanked all the Orchardeers for their work; and Chipping Campden Rotary Club; the MidCounties Co-Op; Gloucestershire County Council; and Cotswold National Landscapes for their financial support..
7. Elections: Five vacancies had arisen on the Committee and four nominations received. Elizabeth Devas was re-elected as Chair; Loyd Grossman, Alex O'Donnell and Sue Pritchard were elected as Committee Members, all by a show of hands.
8. Geoffrey White introduced the Constitutional Amendments outlined in the Memorandum already circulated and invited comments from Members present. The amendments covered:
 - 8.1. Moving the lapse in membership date – Clause 4.4 - Whereby the deadline by which members cease to be members as a consequence of non-payment of the relevant fees which are due on 1st January each year from 6 months (30th June) to 3 months (31st March) i.e., to a date before our AGM, normally held in April.

8.2. Allowing members to vote by post – new Clause 5.12 - Whereby a simple form of postal voting is introduced so that members who cannot attend our AGM can still participate in the decision-making process.

The meeting resolved by a show of hands to approve the proposal that the Constitution be amended in the terms set out in the Memorandum which accompanied the notice of this annual general meeting.

9. Sally Lindner presented the Campden Conservation Trust Fund’s statement which had already been circulated outlining their intention to dissolve the CCTF and transfer the funds to the Campden Society. This has been agreed in principle by both CCTF and TCS and further work will be required to finalise the details of the transfer. She noted that they were very pleased that one the Fund’s Trustees, Alex O’Donnell, had been elected to the Society’s committee.

Questions/Comments from the members:

1. Carol Jackson asked: will the funds be kept separate from the Campden Society’s funds?
2. Mike Newman commented that it makes perfect sense.

Geoffrey White replied that there will be some segregation of the monies because the Campden Society’s recently extended object “to preserve the Wolds End orchard” does not strictly align with the Conservation Trust Fund’s objects. Therefore the Fund’s monies will not be used for that purpose.

10. AOB:

Elizabeth Devas thanked retiring committee members, Norman Knight, Teresa Newman and Keyna Doran, pointing out that Teresa and Keyna still support the committee in various duties.

Carol Jackson thanked the Committee and all the volunteers for all their work over the past year.

No further matters were raised and the meeting was closed at 8m and was followed by an interesting presentation by Andy Parson, CEO of Cotswolds National Landscape..