

## **Minutes of the 53<sup>rd</sup> AGM of The Campden Society**

7.30pm Thursday 7 July 2022 Chipping Campden Town Hall

Attendees: 49 members were present. Apologies: Andy Doran, Mary Fielding, David & Sarah Roberts, Richard & Fiona Plummer, Donna & Mark Evans, Helen Hart, Chris Leese.

1. Elizabeth Devas opened the meeting and the minutes of 52<sup>nd</sup> AGM were approved by a show of hands.
2. Annual Accounts: Geoffrey White presented the Treasurer's Report and Financial Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 which had already been circulated. He thanked David Kingsmill for his diligence over the past ten years and gave a short explanation including the setting up of separate accounts for the Orchard and the Society. The Orchard is self-financing, largely down Julianne Davis's fund raising efforts. There were no comments.
3. Mark Kirkbride, the independent examiner, was thanked and re-appointed by a show of hands.
4. Annual Report: Elizabeth Devas gave the Annual Report of the Committee's Activities which had already been circulated, adding special thanks to the Orcharders.
5. WEO Report: Julianne Davis presented the report by the Wolds End Orchard Sub Committee's Activities which had already been circulated where she thanked John Ellis, Mike Newman, Geoffrey White, Geoff Carr and Susie Tombs present this evening and Donna Evans and Chris Leese who couldn't be here.
6. Elections: Three vacancies had arisen on the Committee and three nominations received. Julianne Davis was elected as Vice Chair; Teresa Newman and David Roberts were elected as Committee Members, in each case by a show of hands.
7. Geoffrey White introduced the Constitutional Amendments outlined in the Memorandum already circulated and invited comments from Members present. The amendments covered:
  - 7.1. including the preservation, conservation and use of Wolds End Orchard in its Objects;
  - 7.2. strengthening the Wolds End Orchard Sub Committee's status;
  - 7.3. amending the wording of the Climate Change to better reflect the Charity Commission's advice;
  - 7.4. increasing the maximum committee size from 8 to 9 to reflect the increased work load;
  - 7.5. increasing the voting threshold for amendments to the Constitution from a two thirds majority to three quarters majority.

Questions from the Members:

Michael Allchin: Does the wording of Clause 6.2 imply the orchard is open all the time?  
Geoffrey White replied that the wording came from the Charity Commission. Keyna Doran/Elizabeth Devas: Both replied that the accessibility is covered by the programme of events.

Philip Smith asked for confirmation that there will not be a new charity. Geoffrey White replied that was correct, instead the society is amending the constitution.

Sally Lindner asked : in the clause 9.3, presumably the committee refers to the full committee? Geoffrey White confirmed that “Committee” is the full committee as defined by the definitions at the back of the Constitution.

Judith Ellis was disappointed that her suggestion on proxy voting has not been taken up. Geoffrey White replied that the Committee was worried that there was a danger of not having physical meeting would make the Society less democratic and less open. Graham Medley remarked that the National Trust committee concerned with reforming the constitution is to recommend the removal of proxy voting. Elizabeth Devas said that the point has been noted and the committee will revisit it.

Following the above discussion Geoffrey White asked the meeting to vote on the resolution that the Constitution be amended and restated in the terms set out in the memorandum dated 23 May 2022 in relation to proposed revisions to the Constitution which had been sent to all Members subject, to the extent that such amendments relate to the Society’s objects, to such changes thereto as may be recommended or suggested by the Charity Commission and agreed by the Committee.

47 members present voted in favour of the resolution.

8. No nominations were received for the election of a further committee member.
9. Sally Lindner presented the Campden Conservation Trust Fund’s statement which had already been circulated. Mike Newman asked about the election of trustees and its democratic basis. Sally explained that the CCTF is a completely different entity and was formed out of a company set up by the previous trustees.
10. AOB:  
Carol Jackson – Thanked the Committee for keeping an eye on things. She has written to the Town Council about the detrimental effect of second homes, holiday homes, etc.  
Norman Knight explained that he has been talking to Councillor Lisa Spivey at CDC who is the Cabinet Member for Housing. CDC is conscious of the issue as it is affecting many Cotswold Town and Villages. However CDC do not have a policy to manage the situation, and are not in the position to set up a licensing programme due to the cost of administering and policing such a measure. The alternative would be government legislation.

No further matters were raised and the meeting was closed at 8.10pm.