

**SYDENHAM GARDEN (“SG”)
MINUTES OF THE 2023 AGM
HELD AT SYDENHAM GARDEN AT 18.45 ON 22nd NOVEMBER
2023**

Present:

Members: Julia Brandreth*, Graeme Thomson*, Jon Sherman*, Fran Bristow*, Ann Sykes*, Laura Reynolds*, Jullen Gordon*, Laura Saksena*, Alona Sheridan, Jim Sikorski, Gill Stephenson, Morwena Nadar, Barbara Kern, Carla Alves, Kate Shipp, Clare Lorraine Phipps.

In attendance: Beth Jaichand (Director), Jermaine Bennett (Head of Services), David Lloyd (Growing Lives Project Coordinator), Ade Joseph, Joy Heard, Graham Bonnell, Stephanie Slaniokova, Katie Bambury, Julian Lahai-Taylor, Susan Dowey, Roja Alves, Deborah Lader (minutes).

Apologies: Kehinde Adeogun*, Steve Bullock*

*Trustee

1. Julia Brandeth (JB), Chair, introduced herself, Jon Sherman (JS) and Graeme Thomson (GT) and thanked everyone for coming and for all that everyone does for SG - Trustees, Staff, Volunteers, Co-workers and other guests and Members.
2. Beth Jaichand (BJ) introduced herself and asked speakers to keep their talks to 5 minutes.
3. Jermaine Bennett (JBe) started by chatting to Carla – co-worker in the Gardening group.
4. Co-worker Steph then spoke about her experiences in Wellbeing Wanderers and Arts and Crafts. Currently enjoying Dance at SG.
5. Co-worker Katie talked about how the Arts and Crafts group has helped her.
6. Co-worker Julian spoke about his experiences of Grow Lewisham and SG and his path to wider activities.
7. Volunteer Clare shared her experience of SG and hidden disabilities.
8. David, Growing Lives Project Co-ordinator, presented on the projects based at De Frene.
9. Trustee Laura shared her experience of SG Committees and the Trustee Board.
10. BJ and JBe then gave a short introduction to the new 3-year strategic plan.

11. JB began the formal business part of the Meeting by noting it was quorate, there being more than ten Members present by proxy or online.
12. JB asked for any comments on the Minutes of the 2022 AGM, which had previously been posted on the SG website – none were raised. GT proposed, Fran Bristow (FB) seconded. Approved unanimously.
13. JB said that Resolution 1 was “To receive the accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2023, including the Trustees’ report on the Charity’s activities since the previous AGM”.
 - JS went through the report on the accounts – SG anticipated and ran a large deficit by using reserves built up over the COVID period. Reserves were £215K = 5 1/2 months running costs so slightly lower than SG would like. We lost the Lewisham Wellbeing and Dementia service contracts which impacted funding. We were successful with negotiating a new Wellbeing Hub partnership with the new lead provider, Together for Mental Wellbeing, plus some other new funding for 2023-24. As with all small charities longer-term funding is always uncertain as there is more competition.
 - He asked if there were any questions on these accounts or other matters; there were none.

The Resolution 1 was put to the Meeting with Fran Bristow (FB) proposing it and Alona Sheridan (ASh) seconding it; the votes cast, together with Proxies received, carried it unanimously.

14. JB said that Resolution 2 was “To elect Laura Saksena as a Trustee”.

JB gave some background on her. LS also talked about her experience with Lewisham Dementia Hub.

The Resolution 2 was put to the Meeting with GT proposing it and Jullen Gordon (JG) seconding it; the votes cast, together with Proxies received, carried it unanimously.

15. JB said that Resolution 3 was “To re-elect Graeme Thomson as a Trustee and Vice-Chair”.

JB praised GT for his invaluable work over previous years, particularly as Vice-Chair. GT expressed how much he enjoyed working with SG and helping it to carry on its great work.

The Resolution 3 was put to the Meeting with Laura Reynolds (LR) proposing it and Anne Sykes (AS) seconding it; the votes cast, together with Proxies received, carried it unanimously.

16. JB said that Resolution 4 was “To re-elect Anne Sykes as a Trustee”.

JB praised AS for her wise words and chairing of the Services sub-committee. AS said it is a privilege to be part of SG and would love to continue to be involved.

The Resolution 4 was put to the Meeting with ASh proposing it and FB seconding it; the votes cast, together with Proxies received, carried it unanimously.

9. JB said that Resolution 5 was “To re-elect Julia Brandreth as a Trustee and Chair”.

GT praised JB for her guidance of Trustees and of the organisation through the difficult times of COVID and helping set the new vision and diversity focus of SG.

The Resolution 5 was put to the Meeting with GT proposing it and AS seconding it; the votes cast, together with Proxies received, carried it unanimously.

10. JB said that she reluctantly proposed Resolution 6 which was “To accept the retirement of Fran Bristow as a Trustee and Vice-Chair”.

JB described FB as excellent strategist and Vice-Chair and didn’t want her to step down. FB said she had enjoyed being a Trustee at SG and was stepping down to travel more, but will no doubt be around as a volunteer from time to time.

The Resolution 6 was put to the Meeting with JS proposing it and GT seconding it; the votes cast, together with Proxies received, carried it unanimously.

11. JB said that Resolution 7 was “To re-appoint Carley Partnership as Independent Examiner”.

GT thanked Vani Niranjana the Finance Manager for all her excellent work on the annual report.

The Resolution 7 was put to the Meeting with JS proposing it and GT seconding it; the votes cast, together with Proxies received, carried it unanimously.

13. JB thanked everyone for coming to the AGM and helping ensure that SG helped so many Co-Workers.

She asked if anyone had any questions or wanted to pass any comments: there were none.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 20.11.

Julia Brandreth, Chair

SG AGM minutes 2023