

**SYDENHAM GARDEN (“SG”)
MINUTES OF THE 2024 AGM
HELD AT SYDENHAM GARDEN AT 18.45 ON 19th NOVEMBER 2024**

Present:

Members: Julia Brandreth*, Graeme Thomson*, Jon Sherman*, Ann Sykes*, Laura Reynolds*, Jullen Gordon*, Steve Bullock*, Kehinde Adeogun*, Alona Sheridan, Jim Sikorski, Gill Stephenson, Morwenna Nadar, Nitia Nadar, Graham Bonnell, Abbie Greene, Agnes Estibals, Ilse Towler, James O'Reilly, Kate Lahe, Kevin Houlton, Sarah Crampton, Sue Wates, Susan Doley, Tim Hickie-Kallenbach, Barbara Kern

In attendance: Lowell Black (Interim Director), Ollie Moss (Head of Services), Deborah Lader (minutes), Lucy Formolli (Lewisham Council), Charlotte Dove, Jane McKay, Lauren Goddard, Rachael Tyndall, Christina, Vanessa, Laura Dyer, Yasmeen, Jemma, Clare Lorraine Phipps, Vani Niranjan

Apologies: Laura Saksena*, Natasha Ratter*, Arthur Ngoka*

*Trustee

1. Lowell Black (LB) introduced themselves as Interim Director and talked about Sydenham Garden and its objectives.
 2. There was then a presentation on the Practical Organic Gardening course and a practical table exercise.
 3. LB talked about the 2024/25 forward look.
 4. Julia Brandeth (JB), Chair, introduced herself, Jon Sherman (Treasurer) (JS) and Graeme Thomson (Vice Chair & Company Secretary) (GT) and thanked everyone for coming and for all that everyone does - Trustees, Staff, Volunteers, Co-workers and other guests and Members.
 5. JB began the business part of the Meeting by noting it was quorate, there being more than ten Members present by proxy.
 6. JB asked for any comments on the Minutes of the 2023 AGM, which had previously been posted on the SG website – none were raised. GT proposed, JS seconded.
 7. JB said that Resolution 1 was “To receive the accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2024, including the Trustees’ report on the Charity’s activities since the previous AGM”.
- JS went through some headlines from the report on the accounts – Financial position was better than previous year. Small deficit of just over £16,000. Looking to manage transition from contract with

BLG Mind to other funding. Unrestricted/ reserves were £228,383 which is a little less than six months total operating costs and therefore slightly lower than SG would like. As with all small charities funding is always uncertain as there is more demand and a tight funding environment.

- He asked if there were any questions on these accounts or other matters; there were none.

The Resolution was put to the Meeting with Alona Sheridan (ASh) proposing it and Laura Reynolds (LR) seconding it; the votes cast, together with Proxies received, carried it unanimously. GT gave thanks to Vani Niranjana (Finance Manager) for all her work on the Report.

8. JB said that Resolution 2 was “To re-elect Steve Bullock (SB) as a Trustee”.

JB gave some background on SB and praised his wealth of experience and ongoing work as a Trustee. SB also talked about his experience as a Trustee and his wide knowledge of the 3rd sector.

The Resolution was put to the Meeting with Nitia Nadar (NN) proposing it and Ann Sykes (AS) seconding it; the votes cast, together with Proxies received, carried it unanimously.

9. JB said that Resolution 3 was “To re-elect Jullen Gordon (JG) as a Trustee”.

JB praised JG for her invaluable work and source of support since 2020. over previous years. JG expressed how much she enjoyed working with SG as a co-worker, volunteer and now a Trustee and carrying on the great work behind the scenes running the service.

The Resolution was put to the Meeting with Morwenna Nadar (MN) proposing it and Sue Wates (SW) seconding it; the votes cast, together with Proxies received, carried it unanimously.

10. JB said that Resolution 4 was “To re-elect Arthur Ngoka (AN) as a Trustee”.

JB praised AN for his work since 2017, saying as a finance expert he brings strategic financial oversight and governance. AN provided a written statement covering his work and saying he aims to continue supporting SG and make a lasting difference.

The Resolution was put to the Meeting with Kehinde Adeogun (KH) proposing it and GT seconding it; the votes cast, together with Proxies received, carried it unanimously.

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

JB praised JS for his rigour and energy chairing the Finance and Governance subcommittee. JS said he had been a Trustee for 5 years and was proud of the work SG does and would be delighted to carry on as a Trustee.

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

11. JB said that Resolution 6 was “To re-appoint Carley Partnership as Independent Examiner”.

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

13. JB thanked everyone for coming to the AGM and helping create and sustain the wonderful SG. 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 19:00.

Julia Brandreth

Chair

SG AGM minutes 2024