

## Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

### The Friends of Bedgebury Pinetum

9.30am, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020

1 & 2	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from the following trustees: Bonita Backhouse, Keith Brookbank and Keith Webber.</p> <p>The meeting was chaired by Philip Vingoe (PV), Chair of trustees.</p> <p>PV opened the meeting at 9.30am and welcomed the Friends attending. (He also welcomed Patrick West (PW) from Forestry England at 9.55am).</p> <p>It was noted that 9 members were in attendance. As this number is not sufficient for a quorum, it was noted that the resolutions presented to those in attendance could not be ratified until the replacement AGM.</p> <p>KJ confirmed that the members' AGM notification contained an alternative date for the AGM in the event of a failure to be quorate at this meeting. The new AGM is at 10am on 7<sup>th</sup> February at which time all those present will form a quorum. KJ to notify members of this via the Friends' website as agreed in the original AGM notification sent to all members at the date of notification (copy appended).</p>
3a	<p><b>Matters arising from the minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup> AGM</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising from the 26<sup>th</sup> AGM.</p>
3b	<p><b>Minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup> AGM</b></p> <p>The minutes from the 26<sup>th</sup> AGM, and the re-adjourned 26<sup>th</sup> AGM, were approved by the members in the meeting. It was noted that official approval would be sought on the 7<sup>th</sup> February and the minutes would be signed on that day.</p>
4	<p><b>The Trustees' Report and the 2019 Financial Statements</b></p> <p>The Trustees' Report and the 2019 Financial Statements were made available to members in advance of the meeting. Hard copies were provided to attendees on request. The reports were taken as read.</p> <p>PV outlined the intended change in structure for the charity to better make clear the distinction between trading and charitable activities, and to take advantage of a Charity Commission recommended structure. He noted that a resolution related to the new structure would be brought for ratification to the next AGM, which the trustees hope to hold mid-2020.</p> <p>PV explained that 2018/9 had been a tough (trading) but interesting year with some successful fund-raising and third-party grant applications for a volunteer ATV and new children's play equipment.</p> <p>PV talked about the Friends' support for work in the Pinetum and the Conifer Conservation Project, the wonderful Friends' events on offer and the Florilegium projects present and future that are being supported by the Friends. PV noted that member numbers had reached their highest level ever in December, and that the Friends' social media communications and engagement continues to flourish.</p>

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	<p>Social prescribing was raised by a member in attendance as an opportunity for Bedgebury, and for society as a whole given Bedgebury’s beauty and tranquility. The member was assured that encouraging visits for mental and physical well-being was definitely on the Forestry England agenda.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p><b>Election of trustees and officers</b></p> <p>All the existing trustees (listed below) offered themselves up for re-election, except for Elspeth Hill who is unable to offer the necessary time to the charity going forward. She was thanked for her long service to the charity. It was also noted that Sylvia Hodgson, a founder Friends’ trustee, had died in December. The Friends will write a note to her family acknowledging her valuable service to the charity over many years.</p> <p>The reappointment of the trustees listed was approved by those in attendance. It was noted that formal ratification for trustee reappointment would be sought on February 7<sup>th</sup>. No other appointments had been proposed in advance of the meeting, and so no other appointments could be considered.</p> <p>It was noted that Emma Reid and Philip Barnes had resigned since the last AGM due to pressures of work.</p> <p>Philip Vingoe (PV) – Chairman, John Gordon (JG) – Treasurer, Kim Fletcher (KF) – Deputy Chair, Keith Webber (KW), Keith Brookbank (KB), Jeremy Sheldon (JS) and Bonita Backhouse (BB).</p>
<p>6</p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>PV opened the floor to questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PV asked PW to explain ‘The Project’ and its potential impact on Bedgebury. PW explained the upcoming Pinetum centenary and the need now to balance the historic investment in recreation with an investment in the tree collection. He mentioned new learning programmes, new infrastructure options to support the site’s propagation specialism, and investment in biosecurity, the visitor welcome and other improvements to site.</li> <li>• Dot Smytherman (DS) mentioned the issue of cycling in the Pinetum. The ‘shared space’ project was outlined and the related infrastructure / comms that might accompany it to support site rules. It was noted that the Friends and Forestry England welcomed members who were happy to lead by example by supporting the site’s rules.</li> </ul> <p>There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 10.15am.</p>

Signed.....

Dated.....