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Minutes

Trellis Annual General Meeting

Friday 18 September 2015

Pitcaple Environmental Project (PEP), Aberdeenshire

In attendance: Alex Davidson, John Davidson, Iain Mackintosh, Colin Stirling, Gordon Croll, Fiona Thackeray, Jenny Simpson, Sharon Watters, Sharon Esslemont, Lesley Bell, David Davidson, Ian Futter, George Evans, Friederike Kemme, Teresa McCaffery, Mark Brown, Zena Gourlay, Mary Stewart, Alison Guyan, Jean Robinson and Jean Gavin.

Apologies: Alan Bell, John Smith and Mike Buckley-Jones

Minutes of the 2014 AGM –proposed as an accurate record by John Davidson, seconded by Gordon Croll

Minutes Accepted

No matters arising from the 2014 AGM minutes.

Chairs Report by Alex Davidson

On behalf of Alan Bell and the Board the Chair thanked everyone for attending and all the directors, staff and fieldworkers for their hard work during the year.

Review of Year

- Extremely difficult to raise funds
- Developed two new part-time fundraising posts for Jo Cook and Anna Hainsworth
- A busy programme of training, taster sessions, presentations and network meetings from Stranraer to Inverness.
- The Trellis Conference, held in March 2015 at The Bield in Perth was well attended with over 120 delegates
- Training sessions on H&S in the Garden and Cropping All Year Round;
- Froglife, in association with Trellis, ran 7 Dragons in your garden wildlife gardening sessions
- A train- the trainers-session was held in January at the Hidden Gardens in Glasgow on planning your garden / encouraging reptiles and amphibians' (built two hibernacula)
- Trellis Taster Sessions on adaptive gardening techniques e.g. Perth's CHAN (Care Homes Activities Network); tcv Green Health in Later Life event; FEVA Greenability Conference ; Medical Staff Wellbeing Event at the Queen's Medical Research Institute, Edinburgh University.
- Staff attended national conferences e.g. presenting at SNH conference : Health Benefits from Healthcare Settings, SRUC Growing Careers Event where horticultural students

showed a keen interest in therapeutic gardening; and a stall at the PAHA Making the environment 'Fit in 14' national conference.

- Invited to deliver a presentation at RBGE People Grow Better in Gardens as part of the RCHS Lecture Programme
- The network grew in size by 61 projects (total 290) and query numbers and demand for field visits continued to rise.

Looking ahead:

- Continue to support therapeutic gardening through our advice, information and fieldwork services, web site and encouraging gardening projects to share good practice through networking events the eBulletin, Facebook and Twitter.
- Part of our Training programme in 2015-16 will focus on 'children with additional needs'
- The Trellis Guide to Setting up a Therapeutic Garden is to be published in November this year.
- 10th Anniversary is coming up this year and we will be marking it in several different ways but any ideas are still welcome.

Treasurer's Report by Iain Mackintosh

Accounts 2014-15

- Trellis year-end is March 31st and we finished up with a deficit of £883, a good outcome in the difficult economic climate.
- Our income was £112,013 and expenditure £112,896, with the main expense being on salaries.
- We have approximately £120,000 in the bank.
- Trellis is still self-supporting, and we hope that this can continue but we must accept that we cannot expect previous levels of support from Funders.

Full financial report is available on request.

Adoption of accounts – proposed by Colin Stirling, seconded by Alex Davidson

Independent Examiner – The members voted to continue with Chris Smith as independent examiner: proposed by Iain Mackintosh and seconded by Sharon Esslemont.

Election of directors

Existing directors standing for re-election: Alan Bell, Gordon Croll, Alex Davidson, John Davidson, Iain Mackintosh, Colin Stirling and Mike Buckley-Jones.

Mary Stewart proposed re-election of those directors. Seconded by Ian Futter.

New directors proposed for election: none

Membership Fee Proposals – Fiona Thackeray suggested we leave fees at current levels, i.e. £20 individuals, £30 projects and £75 others. Gordon Croll proposed this and Colin Stirling seconded it.

Development Manager's Report

Fiona Thackeray reported on progress and activities in the year.

- The Conference in March with 121 delegates was very well attended.
- Gardening Scotland Show participation, a lot of work but worthwhile.
- Sharing skills, knowledge and good practice: we ran a full programme of events, and for the first time ran events for children with additional support needs.
- Inspirational taster sessions.
- Sessions in some interesting places eg University of Stirling Dementia Centre.
- Increasing demand for more intensive assignments at fewer sites driven by the merging of health and social care.
- Visit reports help us to identify needs of the network, e.g. using gardening with kids with complex needs and garden activities for people living with dementia.
- 260 queries were handled and approximately 40 field visits made.
- Raised awareness through social media - website, Facebook and Twitter.
- Email bulletin is sent as often as possible.
- New faces at Trellis this year are:
 - Jo Cook and Anna Hainsworth who are working on Fundraising
 - Joan Wilson in the West of Scotland
 - There is a fieldworker vacancy in the Aberdeen area.
- Many thanks to the volunteers, particularly Gordon Stead, and to all the Board members

AOB – None.

