

The Meconopsis Group AGM held at RBGE 4th March 2017

The meeting commenced at 10.30 with the Chairman John Mitchell making some preliminary announcements. Should there be a fire alarm, members should leave by a side door and make their way towards the glasshouses and congregate on the lawn. He reminded members to keep their cups and to hand in their name badges at the end of the meeting.

Before starting the AGM he welcomed three people to the meeting Dr Lai Wei from Beijing and Mr and Mrs Richard Fry from Canada.

AGM

There were 43 members present at the meeting.

Apologies were received from Evelyn Stevens, Roger Parkes, John Richards, Mike and Sue Shirley, Norma Brandt, and Nicola McNee,.

The Minutes of last meeting had been distributed. John asked if they were accepted.

Proposer: Ian Wright

Seconder: Matt Heasman

Chairman's Report; John Mitchell

John was delighted to report that the Meconopsis book is finally happening. There are two chapters on the table for members to look at. It is a great achievement from the whole group. It will be launched at Chelsea and it is expected that it will go to the printers at the end of March. It will also be launched at Gardening Scotland. There have been a few problems concerning its length. It has been reduced from 150,000 words to between 125,000 and 130,000 words. John thanked all those who had written articles and sent in pictures for the book. Without your help we wouldn't have this book. It is due to The Meconopsis Group that this book has happened. Kit Grey Wilson is the main contributor and editor

Gardening Scotland was again a huge success Thanks to Sharon and her team and to all the people who supplied plants to the stand and for manning the stand. Sharon will put out a plea after lunch for helpers as more are needed this year to help sell the book. We got a gold medal again at Gardening Scotland. Congratulations also to Kevock who got Gold at Chelsea and at Gardening Scotland Just recently they have been awarded the Farrer Trophy for the best alpine display

John then thanked the committee members for writing up the reports and minutes. We are in the process of updating the website. Matt will report on this in the afternoon.

Finally there is one sad note, Harvey Milne, a staunch member of the Group, passed away last year. John remembered his enthusiasm at Joint Rock Committee meetings.

Treasurer's Report: Peggy Anderson. See separate document.

Proposer: Jim Jermyn

Secunder: Jeanie Jones

The report was accepted

Secretary's Report: Sharon Bradley See separate document

There were no questions

Proposer: Alan Elliott

Secunder: Ian Christie

The report was accepted

Seed report: Ian Scott See separate document

Proposer: Neil Wright

Secunder: Peggy Anderson.

Constitutional Changes: Sharon Bradley See separate document

Also see the Constitution as agreed in 2009 and Notes on the Proposed changes.

The changes were accepted

Proposer: Ian Christie

Secunder: Pat Murphy

Election of The Meconopsis Group Committee: John Mitchell

The existing committee members are willing to stay on

Committee members

John Mitchell. Chairman

Ian Christie. Vice Chairman

Peggy Anderson. Treasurer

Sharon Bradley. Secretary

Ian Scott. Seed exchange Manager

Matt Heasman. Web Master

Margaret Thorne and Alan Elliot as Joint coordinators

Alice Bremner

David Thorne

Evelyn Stevens

David Rankin

Pat Murphy

Proposer Helen Knowles

Secunder Jim Jermyn

John thanked Steve McNamara who is standing down this year for being a member of the committee.

Alistair Chalmers ended his year as a co-opted member of the committee, but was elected as a committee member.

Proposer Jim Jermyn

Secunder Sharon Bradley

John then asked the meeting to agree to two new members joining the committee. These are Jim Jermyn, now at Branklyn Garden and Julia Corden who has a National Collection at Pitlochry.

This was agreed

Proposer: George Watts

Secunder: Geoff Hill

Plant naming and assessment subcommittee.

This subcommittee required a Chairman who had to be a member of the management committee. **Ian Christie** was nominated and has accepted this role.

The other members had previously been accepted by The Meconopsis Group

The other members are:

John Mitchell

Evelyn Stevens

Geoff Hill

Beryl McNaughton

Jim Jermyn

Pat Murphy

Steve McNamara

Allan Jamieson (as back up)

A new member was suggested for the subcommittee – Julia Corden

Proposer: Helen Knowles

Secunder: Jeannie Jones

Two more Complementary members were proposed for The Group.

Gothenburg Botanical Garden.

Tromso Arctic- Alpine Garden.

Both of these gardens grow Meconopsis well so will be an excellent complement to the group. Ian Scott has already been involved with them.

Proposer: Jim Jermyn

Secunder: Ian Wright

Any Other Business

There was none. The meeting finished at 10.50