

Monday, 26 March 2023, 1 pm
at 3 Morpeth Place, Blockhouse Bay via Zoom

Present:

Financial members Jeannette Aldridge, Mark Bateman, Eleanor Carter, Carol Dennis, Helen Goile, Alison Harwood, Jacqui Knight, Maurice Mehlhopt, Angela Moon-Jones, Margaret Newcombe, Aashna Rahi, Pete Sebborn, Heather Shingles, Hugh Smith, Zenobia Southcombe, Carol Stensness, Pat Tunstall, Martin Visser, Chrissie Ward and also Brian Cutting and Connal McLean.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Ann Bell, Linda Gates, Sir Bob Harvey, Brian Muddiman, Jillian Sommers and Phil Williams. It was MOVED Heather Shingles SECONDED Carol Stensness that these be accepted.
CARRIED

AGM Minutes 2022

These had been circulated and were posted on the Trust's website. It was MOVED Mark Bateman SECONDED Heather Shingles that they be taken as read and accepted as a true and correct record.
CARRIED

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Trustees' Report

The Trustees' Report has been on the website for members to review. It was MOVED Martin Visser SECONDED Margaret Newcombe that the report be accepted.
CARRIED

Accounts for 2021-22

Maurice explained that for the financial year just ended the Board had had to find a new auditor at short notice as our previous auditor had found themselves unable to do the audit. Audits are complicated involving a team of three people not involved with the preparation of the books. Our usual auditor, who we have been using since 2007, found they no longer had staff levels to fulfil these obligations. We had had to find a new auditor which had cost a good deal more than previous audits.

However, the Performance Report prepared by our accountants in line with the requirements of the Charities Act had been posted on the website and there were no issues.

Maurice commented that our treasurer does an excellent job preparing the accounts for the approval of the accountants. It was MOVED Hugh Smith SECONDED Martin Visser that the accounts for 2021-22 be accepted.
CARRIED

Auditor's Report

It was MOVED Margaret Newcombe SECONDED Chrissie Ward that this be accepted.
CARRIED

Budget for 2023-24

It was MOVED Martin Visser SECONDED Mark Bateman that this be accepted.
CARRIED

Annual Subscriptions for 2023-24

The trustees recommended that the subscriptions be increased by \$5, i.e. the online subscription would be \$40 instead of \$35, and the subscription for the magazine sent by post would be \$50. The last time the subscriptions were raised had been in 2019, again by \$5.

It was MOVED Margaret Newcombe SECONDED Jeannette Aldridge that the annual subscriptions for the next financial year be increased by \$5, to \$40 for an online subscription and \$50 to receive the magazine in the post. CARRIED

Election of Members of the Board

According to the Trust Deed, the two longest serving trustees needed to retire, which was Jacqui Knight and Maurice Mehlhopt. It was MOVED Mark Bateman SECONDED Hugh Smith that Jacqui Knight be reappointed as a trustee. CARRIED

It was MOVED Margaret Newcombe SECONDED Martin Visser that Maurice Mehlhopt be reappointed as a trustee. CARRIED

The Chairman stressed that the MBNZT is always open to have wider representation and greater diversity in the team. If anyone would like to discuss that opportunity, or had a recommendation to make, they could contact the Board at any time.

Reappointment of Secretary

It was MOVED Alison Harwood SECONDED Angela Moon-Jones that Jacqui Knight be reappointed as secretary. CARRIED

Reappointment of Treasurer

It was MOVED Jacqui Knight SECONDED Heather Shingles that Carol Stensness be reappointed as treasurer. CARRIED

Reappointment of Legal Advisor

It was MOVED Chrissie Ward SECONDED Maurice Mehlhopt that Richard Wood be reappointed as honorary solicitor. CARRIED

Proposed change in the Trust Deed

The trustees had recommended that the accounts no longer be audited each and every year. There was no requirement, either by the Charities Commission or by the major funders and sponsors, for this to be done annually. This would be a major saving for the MBNZT. Therefore, the trustees recommended that Clause 18.4 "Audit" be removed from our trust deed, and that 18.5 be renumbered to 18.4.

This proposed change to the trust deed has been advertised on the website for three weeks as well as in the magazine. At any time, should members have concerns, they could have access to the financial records of the MBNZT, given reasonable notice. They could also call a Special General Meeting at any time if they were dissatisfied with the financial processes of the MBNZT.

Accordingly, the Trustees MOVED that the Trust Deed be changed to remove clause 18.4 Audit, and clause 18.5 be renumbered to 18.4. This was SECONDED by Jeannette Arlidge. CARRIED

General Business

Jeannette Arlidge asked if we were using an accounting program and was informed that we were using Reckon Accounts Hosted Online.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

Vote of Thanks

Maurice moved a vote of thanks to those people who brought the AGM together, as well as individual members for attending. He added that their support was much appreciated, and that the meeting be closed at 1.21 pm. He thanked Aashna Rahi for managing the technical aspects of the meeting and asked Brian Cutting to proceed with his presentation on Backyard Biodiversity and Ecosystem Function, to which members were looking forward.