

**Minutes of 40th Annual General
Meeting held on 4th October 2025 at
St. Mary's and St. Margaret's Church
Hall**



Castle Bromwich
Historic Gardens

Trustee Bethan Collerton welcomed everyone and chaired the meeting.

1. Present - 28,

Including 20 Members, 4 Trustees,

3 Observers -

- Glynis Powell, General Manager,
- Oliver Pickering, Parkland and Outdoor Engagement Manager
- Dominic Biasi, Duty Manager

Jack Gunn (Events Coordinator) as Minutes-taker.

Trustees present:

George Edward 'Ted' Richards OBE, Bethan Collerton (Chair), Seb Lovell-Huckle, Angela Wolferstan.

Helen Johnson Trustee sent her apologies having stood down at the last Trustee meeting

- Ted Richards proposed a formal motion of thanks to Helen Johnson for all her work and support during her six years as Trustee.
- This was followed by a short personal thanks to her from both Bethan Collerton and Glynis Powell.

2. Apologies:

9 received: Jayne Gee, Soobie Whitfield, Karen Bebbington, Chris Price, Ben Price, Chris Turner, Amy Parry, Cllr. Marjorie Bridle (a founder member representative), Jutta Stalhacke

The Chair proceeded to consider the scheduled resolutions which were proposed by the Trustees.

Proxy votes

NB 8 members had voted by proxy prior to the meeting. All were in favour of all of the resolutions and their numbers are included in the counts for the resolutions below.

**3. To Approve the Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting held on 14th
September 2024**

- Proposed by Dorothee Fry and seconded by Dave Bennett.
- 27 voted in favour
- 1 abstention.

**4. To receive and adopt the Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st
December 2024**

- Proposed by Julian Caruana and seconded by Jane Edwards.
- 24 voted in favour
- 3 abstentions

5. To confirm the following persons as Trustees/Directors

- a) Ted Richards OBE
- b) Bethan Collerton (Chair)
- c) Seb Lovell-Huckle
- d) Angela Wolferstan

NB Helen Johnson stepped down at this meeting

- Proposed by Susan Bell and seconded by Dave Bennet. Unanimously accepted.

6. To approve the Trustees' proposal that the fees for Membership of the Trust for the Year 2025/2026 should be:

- a) Individual £35
- b) Joint £55
- c) Family £60
- d) Individual Life £200; Joint Life £300

Effective from 1st November 2025

- Proposed by Dorothee Fry and Seconded by Jane Edwards.
- 26 Voted in favour
- 1 abstention

7. To give the Trustees the power to review current arrangements for independent examination and seek the best value appointment for 2026.

- Proposed by Jane Edwards and seconded by Graham License.
- 27 in favour
- 1 against.

Bethan Collerton then thanked attendees and moved on to general questions of which there was only one, namely whether or not any of the architect company that produced the feasibility study was present. It was answered that no one was present from the architects.

There being no other business the formal meeting was closed by the Chair at 16:18.

- General discussion then ensued. The new Garden Management Plan was presented comprehensively by the Chair.

Questions from members centred largely on the effects of the Box Moth Caterpillar on the Gardens' hedges. There was general concern about the efforts involved in financing both the removal of the blighted plants, and re-planting with different species of those areas acutely affected.

- New building plans and finance
 - The General Manager and the Chair responded by outlining the various steps involved before spades go into the ground and identifying the large figures that will be needed to finance these stages. The Trustees were keen to stress that we are only at the very beginnings of the process of developing a new building.
 - The community consultation and feasibility study carried out by Apec architects was on display in the room and was consulted by many of the members
- Tea and cake was then provided, with members invited to chat informally with staff, Trustees and each other.
 - Information regarding the Gardens' general shape in 2024 was laid out on tables for people to read, as well as a detailed plan for the next decade. We would like to thank the Church of St. Mary's and St. Margaret's for providing their hall for our use.

Minutes taken by Jack Gunn, 4th Oct. Formatted by Glynis Powell 8th Oct.