



**Horticultural Trades Association Annual General Meeting 2024 Minutes**  
**ICC, Birmingham Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Available to all HTA members in person and via the AGM Webinar**

Present:

Alan Down (AD)	HTA President
William Armitage (WA)	Vice-President & President Elect
Fran Barnes (FB)	HTA CEO
James Barnes (JKB)	HTA Chairman
Matthew Kaye (MK)	Auditor, Johnston & Carmichael

Apologies:

Matthew Bent	HTA Board member
Mark Pitman	HTA Board member
Alex Vick	HTA Finance Director

AD opened the meeting at 16.45pm.

AD gave an opening address to all those in attendance and thanked Boyd Douglas-Davies who steps down as director at this meeting, for his contribution to the board over the last seven years. AD also thanked Simon Frazer who stepped down from the board earlier this year.

AD outlined the procedures for voting on the resolutions either in the room or online, which require a simple majority in favour. One proxy form was submitted in advance of the meeting and counted towards each vote.

**Resolution 1**, to approve the Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Council Meeting held via webinar on 1 September 2023. The minutes were approved and the motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 2**, to receive the CEO update, the Chairman's update and the annual accounts for 2023.

AD stated that in advance of this resolution he would ask the Chairman James Barnes and the CEO Fran Barnes to give a review of the previous year and outlook.

JKB and FB presented their reports to the meeting.

AD said that if anyone wished to raise any questions about the accounts, he would be very happy to provide additional detail, either in this meeting or later by phone or email.

AD pointed out that our auditors (MK) Johnston Carmichael were in attendance if anyone had a question to pose to them.

One point was raised by Dougal Philip, (New Hopetoun Gardens), who said that he is amazed by the work produced and carried out by the staff at Head Office. He noted that there had been a number of new appointments with a generous increase in salaries, but that it was well deserved. He also said that the Chairman's report was very informative, especially the detail about breakage and having made a smaller loss than anticipated. Dougal expressed his thanks to the staff at Head Office and the senior leadership team and HTA Board.

The accounts were approved and the motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 3:** To elect the Officers of the Association.

3.1: to ratify the appointment of:

**William Armitage as President**  
**Jane Lawler as Vice President**  
**Alan Down as Immediate Past President**  
**Mark Pitman as a Director**  
**Mike Burks as a Director**

AD officially handed over the President's Chain to WA at this point and WA thanked AD and extended his thanks to AD's wife Felicity for enabling him to contribute so much to the HTA during his time as President.

The appointments were approved and the motion passed unanimously.

3.2 to ratify the re-appointment of:

**Geoff Ceasar as Director**  
**Neil Grant as Director**  
**Matthew Bent as Director**  
**Brian Fraser as Director**  
**Adam Taylor as Director**

The re-appointments were approved and the motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 4:** To re-appoint the auditors, Johnston Carmichael

The re-appointment was approved and the motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 5:** To ratify the annual subscription rates for 2025 per the document provided in the member portal.

The rates were approved and the motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 6:** Any Other Business

There being no other business, WA announced the meeting closed at 17:15pm.