

# Minutes of AGM

## 17 October 2025

18:30 – (24hr clock)

### 1. Welcome

Sir Andrew Cubie welcomed the attendees to the AGM 2025 with particular acknowledgement and sadness of the passing of Trellis patron, Jim McColl, just a few weeks after the 2024 AGM.

Those in attendance were:

BOARD MEMBERS	OTHER ATTENDEES
Andrew Cubie	Jo Cook
Stan Green	Carrie Cochrane
Colin Stirling	Fiona Thackeray
Peter Sinclair	
Linda Treliving	
Charlie Carnegie	
Jim Jermyn	
<b>MEMBERS</b>	
Mary Stewart	
Alastair Simmons	

### 2. Apologies

Apologies Received from:

Jinty Moffet	Lorna Tait
Mike Buckley-Jones	

### 3. Minutes of Previous Year's AGM

The Minutes of the 2024 AGM were accepted by the attendees as a true record of the AGM 2025:

Proposer	Second
Jim Jermyn	Colin Stirling

## 4. Matters Arising from Previous AGM Minutes

There were no Matters Arising from the AGM Minutes 2024.

## 5. Chairman's report

Welcome all – we appreciate you giving up your time to contribute to our AGM.

The year has been a mix of very exciting and gratifying wins and plenty of difficult stretches that required all our grit and savvy to navigate:



**Conference:** The conference in March was a really heartwarming and inspirational gathering with a stellar line up. We were quite overwhelmed by the positive comments we heard from delegates, many of them felt the same, with several saying it was the best ever. Please add 13 March 2026 to your diaries, same venue – the Bield at Blackruthven. And planning is getting underway so please do send us your suggestions and requests.

**Training and good practice sharing events** – outline in the infographic above.

**Cross Party Group** – We send a delegate from Trellis to these meetings to represent the therapeutic horticulture field, and our patron, Sir John Curtice spoke very eloquently in February about how much in tune therapeutic horticulture is with the concerns of the electorate and made a strong case for why our politicians should support this work. We are following up with further meetings with various representatives where possible. John Swinney met us at Scone Palace in May and Jim Fairlie, Minister for Agriculture also met us at the office in January. Both were very supportive of the work of therapeutic gardening projects.

**World Therapeutic Horticulture Day:** A huge success with yet more new connections made around the world, and increased awareness which we hope lays the foundation for recognition.

**Fieldwork** including specialist hospital units, care homes, schools and people with specific support needs. We made new connections to groups gardening in the community, in universities and care facilities over the year, as well as to GP surgery link workers who are interested in gardening – to be continued.

**Web redevelopment** – this has been a huge project and we're still troubleshooting. There are more than 800 pages of content, and this is growing all the time – so take some time to explore it and please let us know if you can't find anything. Apologies for some areas that were not working as expected at various points of the year. We always benefit from your feedback.

**Scone Palace partnership & new Patrons:** we're develop plans for work on site in the Walled Garden at Scone. Alan Bell, founding chair of Trellis has also been helping us with strategic planning.

**Patrons focus** – It was a very sad year in which we lost one of our founding patrons, that colossus of Scottish horticulture, Jim McColl, MBE. However, we gained a new patron: Alan Bell, founding chair of Trellis and still have the amazing support of Joanna Gordon, Professor Sir John Curtice, Dr Richard Simpson and Brian Cunningham.

**PDA** – we were so delighted to finally win approval for the development of our practitioner course, the Professional Development Award in 'Developing professional practice in therapeutic horticulture' at level 7 from both our college partners and the Scottish Qualifications Authority. We hope to open for enrolment next year and start teaching.

**Professional Development work** – we completed work on the Standards of Practice - available on our page for consultation – and the draft Routes to Recognition, and have begun to draft the basic competences for practitioners. More updates will be shared in our spring meeting – details and link on our website.

**Ukraine:** we continue to support colleagues across the country where we can in their aim to develop TH as a rehabilitation intervention and get it recognised by government.

**Presentations for:** Swedish and Scottish college students. Conference stalls/workshops for various audiences including health professionals at the NHS annual event in June, dementia specialists, care personnel and horticulture students.

**Funding** – Brutal cuts – Scottish Government, and trickier criteria at Trusts/foundations alongside huge competition and declining odds for much of the funding we would normally apply for. We had to use reserves again, however we did manage to finish the year with the full budget raised and a smaller than forecast shortfall. Board and staff are working to a plan that will address the situation – necessarily this is a dynamic plan as the funding world is forever changing. We're developing new ways to support our work and to create a varied and diverse funding base but this demands a huge resource and we hope after not too long, we will have a strong income pattern that doesn't require so much continuous, intensive effort and supports our main priorities.

**Membership** – The renewed scheme was launched in January in time for conference booking. However, website upgrade work stymied our best efforts at a smooth launch and we're trying to catch up with the plans we had to develop more member benefits.

## 6. Treasurer's report

Charlie Carnegie, Treasurer, reported on the Trellis financial accounts –

1. The Accounts for the year show a deficit of £17,000 (2024 was a deficit of £33,323), a significant improvement of £16,323 on last year and going forward we look to break even in the current year, however this shall not be easy.
2. Our Income increased from £178,841 to £207,671. We had additional income from our conference and from Training plus a Gift Aid repayment of £17,201 this year.
3. Our Expenditure increased from £212,164 to £224,671.
4. Our staff costs increased from £159,473 to £163,828 which is due to an inflation-linked increase in the salary rates.
5. Some of the other costs which rose significantly this year were Marketing and Publicity as we had someone working on updating our website, however we were able to make some cost savings to offset this.

[link to financial summary](#)

The Treasurer's Report was accepted by the meeting:

proposer	seconders	
Colin Stirling	Stan Green	
<b>7. Election of directors.</b> New directors are proposed/seconded individually. Returning directors can be voted in en bloc.		
	proposer	seconders
Colin Stirling (Returning)	Mary Stewart	Alastair Simmons
Mike Buckley-Jones (Returning)	Mary Stewart	Alastair Simmons
Andrew Cubie (Returning)	Mary Stewart	Alastair Simmons
Peter Sinclair (Returning)	Mary Stewart	Alastair Simmons
Linda Treiving (Returning)	Mary Stewart	Alastair Simmons
Stan Green (Returning)	Mary Stewart	Alastair Simmons
Charles Carnegie (Returning)	Mary Stewart	Alastair Simmons
Jim Jermyn (Returning)	Mary Stewart	Alastair Simmons
George Gilchrist (Returning)	Mary Stewart	Alastair Simmons
Carrie Cochrane (New 2025)*	Andrew Cubie	Charlie Carnegie
Alistair Simmonds (New 2025)* **	Andrew Cubie	Stan Green
* Biographies will be sent round with minutes **To be ratified subject to opportunity to attend December board meeting		

<b>8. Appointment of Independent Examiner.</b>	
Name of Independent Examiner: Morris and Young (Independent Examiner, Chartered Accountants, Perth.)	
proposer	seconders
Charlie Carnegie	Andrew Cubie

<b>9. Membership Fees</b>	
Pricing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual: £65 per year</li> <li>• Student: £30 per year</li> <li>• Project: £95 per year for organisations with an annual income of &lt;£100,000;</li> <li>• Project: £155 with annual income &gt;£100,000</li> </ul>	
proposer	seconders
Andrew Cubie	Charlie Carnegie

## 10. Development Report

Fiona Thackeray, Trellis CEO, reported on the work of Trellis over the year 2024-25. She also thanked all Trellis Donors, Friends and Supporters, Patrons, Directors, Volunteers, Partners, Fieldworkers, and Staff for their invaluable support. – [LINK TO CEO'S REPORT](#)

## 11. AOCB. Any items raised by those present.

Fiona Thackeray – Companies House has a short time frame in which to introduce new trustees. AC confirmed that AS appointment as a trustee might be best to be scheduled as effective from December board meeting.

Carrie Cochrane – advised new mental health framework from Scottish Government coming out. She will share so we can study where we contribute.

Meeting Ended at 19.20pm