Minutes of AGM
16 October 2026

18:30 – (24hr clock)

1. Welcome

Sir Andrew Cubie welcomed the attendees to the AGM 2026.

Those in attendance were:

	BOARD MEMBERS		**OTHER ATTENDEES**
	Andrew Cubie		Kirsten Parrish
	Charlie Carnegie		Lorna Tait
	Alastair Simmons		Fiona Thackeray
	Colin Stirling		Tara Campbell
	Stan Green		
	MEMBERS		
	Anna Baker Cresswell		

2. Apologies

Apologies Received from:

George Gilchrist	Louise Rawlins
Jim Jermyn	

3. Minutes of Previous Year's AGM

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

Proposer	Seconder
Colin Stirling	Charlie Carnegie

4. Matters Arising from Previous AGM Minutes

There were no Matters Arising from the AGM Minutes 2025.

5. Chairman's report

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

The year is a milestone for Trellis and everyone involved with the work of the charity in more ways than one. We reached our 20th anniversary and were deeply honoured to see the occasion marked by the awe-inspiring Floral Clock in Edinburgh. Hopefully some of you managed to see it in all its glory, though I understand it's now in the process of being dismantled for overwintering.

Another huge milestone was the validation of the PDA practitioner qualification in September, the very month we began operating 20 years ago. This is exciting and gratifying given all the work that has gone into developing the course and getting it to this point. We hope to start teaching in late January next year and have a lot to do to prepare for that.



Conference: Please add 11 March 2027 to your diaries, new venue – Perth College. And planning is getting underway so please do send us any suggestions and requests.

Training and good practice sharing events – FT can cover – or refer to infographic above.

Cross Party Group – Has been on ice since before elections. Convener Rachel Hamilton and sponsor, Jim Fairlie, Minister for Agriculture are now gearing up to restart meetings. Both are very supportive of the work of therapeutic gardening projects.

World Therapeutic Horticulture Day: Another success with yet more new connections made and 48 countries participating. The aim is increased awareness which we hope lays the foundation for recognition. It's very easy to take part and the colder months are the perfect opportunity to incubate ideas for next May 18th.
Fieldwork Our freelance and staff team have been out in the field supporting groups in a variety of settings to tackle problems and projects of all kinds. Helping improve planting and access in specialist hospital units; easy activity ideas for care homes, and programmes that help schools do more learning outdoors.

Web redevelopment – this has been a huge project that required a very long spell of troubleshooting and took up a huge amount of energy. It's really encouraging to see that now we have most of the big problems sorted out. We're adding content and improving the layout constantly so hopefully that's paying off for all of you who use the site. We always benefit from your feedback so please do let us know of things you'd like to see or anything that doesn't work as you'd expect.

Hellos & goodbyes: we're very sorry to lose Jenna, our fieldworker in Perth who did such sterling work with local groups including securing an allotment for the Salvation Army Lifehouse group – you'll see her in Fiona's slides. She's gone onto get married and take on a full time gardening job and we wish her all the best of luck in both of these exciting ventures. Happily, we welcomed Carys, a lovely Welsh lady to take on Jenna's work and so far it's going very well. This month we recruited two fantastic new staff members, and we can't wait for them to get started – 1) helping with admin and 2) developing our new Growing Wellbeing blueprints to help take TH mainstream. We have been very pleased to welcome Alistair Simmons to the board in the past year and have just completed discussions with another new member tba. Finally, we're in discussion with a possible new Patron – watch this space for announcements.

PDA – we were so delighted to finally see our practitioner course, 'Developing professional practice in therapeutic horticulture' validated by the panel convened by Qualifications Scotland, just last month. We hope to open for enrolment early next year and are really looking forward to starting teaching. Fiona will cover this in more detail.

Professional Development work – we completed work on the latest draft of the Routes to Recognition, finalised the core competences for practitioners and created several of the policies as well as early work on the application forms and governance framework that will be needed. We hope to open for pilot registrations within the next 18 months. More updates will be shared in our autumn meeting which you're all very welcome to join – details and link on our website and agenda coming out soon.

Ukraine: we are doing our modest best to support colleagues in Kyiv who are sadly under daily bombardment again. Two practitioners got in touch in August to see about coming to Scotland for a study tour to develop their skills and we hope they will be able to come to the conference in March. They are doing incredible work in rehabilitation for both veterans and civilians and trying to include other groups where possible too. They had to put in 16-hour days recently getting gardens at 2 or 3 different sites ready for winter knowing they may not be able to go there for regular maintenance as shelling intensified.

Presentations & lectures for: Italian, Swedish and Scottish college students. Conference stalls/workshops for various audiences including health professionals at the NHS stroke conference in November, dementia specialists, care personnel and horticulture students.

Funding – Despite a still very challenging climate, we did manage to finish the year with the full budget raised and a reasonably small deficit – slowly closing the gap on recent years' figures. Board and staff are working to a plan that aims to create a diversified funding base with less reliance on the trusts, foundations and statutory sources that are so chimerical and need continuous, intensive effort. We're working hard to reach a model that relies more on people close to us who understand the cause and support the main priorities.

Membership – Promotion of the renewed scheme was once again stymied by fallout from problems with our website upgrade work early this year. Happily, however, we are now past the worst of that and working hard to share the programme and its many benefits to a wider audience. In turn, we're seeing those efforts pay dividends and membership grow steadily.

Appreciation – We really enjoy working with everyone in the network over the year and would like to thank all of you, plus our hardworking staff, board members, and our very generous supporters and donors for all they do. We couldn't do it without you.

6. Treasurer's report

Charlie Carnegie, Treasurer, reported on the Trellis financial accounts – link to financial summary

The Treasurer's Report was accepted by the meeting:

proposer	seconder

Stan Green	Colin Stirling

7. Election of directors.

New directors are proposed/seconded individually.
Returning directors can be voted in en bloc.

	proposer	seconder
Sir Andrew Cubie	Anna Baker Cresswell	Andrew Cubie
Jim Jermyn	Anna Baker Cresswell	Andrew Cubie
Colin Stirling	Anna Baker Cresswell	Andrew Cubie
Peter Sinclair	Anna Baker Cresswell	Andrew Cubie
Stan Green	Anna Baker Cresswell	Andrew Cubie
Charles Carnegie	Anna Baker Cresswell	Andrew Cubie
George Gilchrist	Anna Baker Cresswell	Andrew Cubie
Alastair Simmons	Anna Baker Cresswell	Andrew Cubie

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner.

Name of Independent Examiner: Morris and Young
(Independent Examiner, Chartered Accountants, Perth.)

proposer	seconder
Charlie Carnegie	Andrew Cubie

9. Membership Fees

The membership fees remain unchanged and will be review again in 2027.

Pricing:

- Individual: £65 per year
- Student: £30 per year
- Project: £95 per year for organisations with an annual income of <£100,000;
- Project: £155 with annual income >£100,000

proposer	seconder
Charlie Carnegie	Stan Green

10. Development Report

Fiona Thackeray, Trellis CEO, reported on the work of Trellis over the year 2025-26. – CEO Report

11. AOCB. Any items raised by those present.
Fiona Thackeray thanked the board of directors for volunteering their time to Trellis. Fiona also thanked the projects and practitioners within the network as without them Trellis wouldn't be able to do the work we do. Stan Green voiced how significant the work of Trellis is and he can feel the field is really starting to be recognised.
Meeting Ended at 19:40