

Minutes of the FGRT AGM 5th December 2024

National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin

Accounts/Reports

- Accounts for 2023 have been sent to the Charities Regulator and Revenue Commissioners.
- Money received was spent on oak and sycamore progeny trials and on the sycamore seed orchard at Loughgall.
- €15,000 currently in the FGRT bank account was carried over from 2023.
- Annual Accounts for 2023 were proposed by Enda Coates and seconded by Jo Clark.
- Draft Annual Report for 2023 was circulated. Now on the Charities Regulator website.
- Annual Report 2023 was proposed by Eamon Cooper and seconded by Emily Hall.

Trustees

- Eugene Hendrick outlined the procedure regarding Rule 14.1 of the Trust which concerns the rotation and election of Executive Members.
- Rodrigo Olave and Gerry Douglas retired as Trustees and were re-elected. Proposed by Jo Clark and seconded by Ellen Parkinson.
- Two new Trustees were proposed to expand the skills and expertise of FGRT:
 - Karen Latimer brings substantial experience of the workings of charities and the rules and regulations concerning their operation.
 - Alistair Pfeifer a forester, formerly of the Forest Service and Coillte, has many years' experience in developing breeding programmes for both major and minor tree species used in the national planting programme.
 - Proposed by Ellen O'Connor and seconded by Dermot O'Leary.

A.O.B.

- Discussion took place on the need to make people aware of the importance of tree improvement. Currently there is little knowledge of this among the public. The industry should be invited to participate in any initiative proposed.
- Joe Clark mentioned that FFT employs a Marketing and Communications specialist for 2 days a month @ £300/day to promote the work of the FFT. Reels and 60 second sound bites have been produced on, for example - the need for better quality trees; and it is good to cut down trees and replant. Such an initiative helps with funding.