

**DRAFT MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF
THE GARDENS TRUST
held on Monday 31 March 2025
via Zoom commencing at 6pm**

1. **Welcome and Introduction**

Catriona Hoyes, as honorary company secretary of the Gardens Trust and chair of the meeting (the “**Chair**”) opened the meeting and welcomed members.

1. **Apologies for absence**

The Chairman explained to the members that apologies for absence had been received from Peter Hughes, Geoff Dixon, Chris Blandford, Clare Hickman, Jo Barnes and Francesca Murray.

1. **Conduct of the Meeting**

The Chair explained to the assembled members that the purpose of the meeting was to formally appoint John Watkins as trustee of the Gardens Trust. The Chair explained that a brief biography for John had been included with the EGM papers and that the Board was excited to have co-opted John as a trustee given his long standing history as a member of the Gardens Trust and Garden History Society (since 1996) and his impressive career to date.

1. **Voting**

The Chair confirmed that 38 valid proxy forms had been received from individual members of the Gardens Trust and 8 valid proxy forms had received from CGT voting reps.

The Chair explained that the meeting was quorate, and that therefore voting would go ahead via Zoom polls (to which proxy votes would be added). The Chair explained that a majority of votes from both individual members and CGTs (under separate polls) would be required for the resolution to be passed.

1. **Election of John Watkins**

The motion to elect John Watkins as Trustee for a term of three years was proposed by Jill Sinclair and seconded by Janet Fuller.

Proxy votes received were all in favour of the resolution and the Zoom poll for both individual members and CGT voting reps was clearly in favour. The motion was therefore **agreed** and John Watkins was therefore formally appointed trustee of the Gardens Trust.

1. **Contribution from John Watkins**

John Watkins spoke to express his delight and excitement at his appointment. He spoke about the challenges ahead and his ambition for the Gardens Trust and its important work.

1. **Any Other Business**

The Chair explained that no other business had been notified in advance.

1. **Conclusion of the meeting**

The Chair thanked all members present for attending the meeting and the meeting was closed at 6.10pm.

**There being no further business, the meeting was closed.**