



*To promote lifelong learning for individuals and industry through
the understanding and enjoyment of flowers, trees, plants
and animals for career, business, educational and leisure purposes”*

**MINUTES OF THE SEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT 4.15PM ON THE 9TH JULY 2009**

Members:

Mr. Roger Abraham
Mr. Sam Bell
Dr. Steven Dowbiggin OBE
Mr. Huw Jones Owen (Chairman)
Mr. Malcolm Parkinson
Vacancy

In attendance:

Mrs Sue Adams, Clerk to Governors

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

NOTED:

- i. that the vacancy on the Search Committee, following the resignation of Ken Crowther at the Special Governing Body meeting held on the 19th May 2009, would be reported to the next meeting of the Governing Body;
- ii. members of the Search Committee asked that Lady Salisbury be approached to ascertain whether she would be willing to become a member of the Search Committee.

**3. MINUTES OF THE SEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
THE 10TH NOVEMBER 2008**

RECEIVED paper 3, minutes of the Search Committee meeting held on the 10th November 2008 for decision.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE SEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 10TH NOVEMBER 2008

There were no matters arising from the Search Committee meeting held on the 10th November 2008.

5. VACANCY ON THE GOVERNING BODY

NOTED:

- i. there was one vacancy on the governing body following Ken Crowther's resignation at the Special Meeting of the Governing Body on the 19th May 2009;
- ii. members considered the governors' skills analysis and identified that the resignation of Ken Crowther would leave a skills gap on the governing body which could not be covered by other governors;
- iii. Ken Crowther had been a commercial representative of the horticultural and garden design industries and had strong links with such organisations as the Horticultural Trades Association, Institute of Horticulture etc;
- iv. the need to give priority to focusing on appointing a governor who would strengthen links with the horticultural and garden design industries particularly in view of the developments taking place in the National Gardening Centre and the current economic climate;
- v. members of the Search Committee considered the CV received from Elizabeth Balgobin and felt that, although she would make a valuable member of governing body, the skills she could offer the governing body were partially covered by other governors at the present time;
- vi. members considered the list of people that had previously expressed an interest in becoming a member of the governing body, but felt that none of these could fill the skills gaps left by Ken Crowther;
- vii. it is within the terms of reference of the Search Committee to consult with interested bodies and make use of "executive search" as appropriate in order to attract candidates;
- viii. potential people with the relevant skills that could be approached were identified as follows:
 - Jim Finlayson, ex Managing Director of Greenscene
 - Denis Espley, Managing Director of Squires Garden Centres
 - John Lord, Managing Director of John Woods Nurseries
 - A senior member of the Royal Horticultural Society
 - John Frost, Garden Designer and Nurseryman
 - Geof Colgrave, Colegrave Seeds Limited
 - David Gwyther, Director General of the HTA
 - Tony Keeling, Elsemere Seeds

- Lord Taylor of Holbeach

- ix. Members asked the Chief Executive Officer to talk to David Gwyther and seek his advice on who to approach.

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive Officer prepares a brief to be considered at a future meeting.

6. UPDATE ON THE ELECTION OF A STAFF GOVERNOR

NOTED that:

- i. staff had elected Bob Mallick (School of Learning Support) as Staff Governor for a term of office of two years;
- ii. Bob Mallick had confirmed his eligibility to serve as a governor;
- iii. Bob Mallick's election as staff governor would be reported to the next meeting of the Governing Body for ratification.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 9th November at 3.30pm