

KINGSWOOD, WALTON AND TADWORTH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Minutes of the 117th Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 10th August 2022

Held at the Church Hall Christchurch United Reform Church.

Apologies: Linda Rowles. John Barlow. Elizabeth Hargrave. Joanna Reynolds. Helen Gilbert-Harris. Pat Webster. Christine Garrett. Margaret Taylor. Morag Dowsett. Jeanette & Alan Walls. Gill Gibbins.

Minutes of the last AGM read

Matters Arising: None

Chairman's report:

Graeme welcomed everyone to the 117th AGM. He proceeded to thank all the committee and willing helpers. President David Fitch, Life Vice -Presidents Keith & Elizabeth Lewis and again Keith Lewis our secretary. Ian Garrett who keeps the books straight. Membership secretaries Cathy & David who keep our members up to date. This year we have had several guest speakers and outside social visits which were very popular. Gillian Ross for taking the Show entries. Jasmine Heath for keeping the Sociable gardeners running smoothly with a great following. Anne Bance who keeps us lubricated with tea & cake at the shows and other events. Marion and her helper Lesley on the plant stall. A great job had been done all these willing helpers and many others that I have not mentioned, but we do appreciate their help. The position of Show Captain is vacant if anyone is interested in that role.

Hon Sec Report:

Keith thanked the Elders of Christchurch Church for the use of the hall and especially thank Janet for her help with the keys and other arrangements. Holding the AGM in the summer is an experiment to see what support we have during the summer months, rather than in the cold & wet months. Keith then asked for a show of hands to see who preferred to have the AGM at this time of year. The majority preferred this time of year.

Keith reported that we have had two successful Shows with some new entrants who we are delighted to welcome.

Sue Edwards again organised the GD weekend which was enjoyed by all. Keith thanked Sue for all her hard work

There is one more Show this year on the 10th September and we would love to see as many entries as possible, despite the weather, especially in the fuchsia class.

All other information can be obtained from the Newsletter and Cathy & David were thanked for their hard work in putting this together.

Keith ended by informing those present that he is opening his garden for the NGS. Teas will be provided by TWOAT.

Hon Treasurers Report:

The committee has decided to change the financial year end to 31st July to allow the AGM to take place during the summer. As a consequence, I present the accounts for a 10-month period only. As most of the income from subs, and expenditure on overheads takes place in the first half of the year, the effect on the overall position for the period is minimal.

With the calendar again containing a full complement of shows, the Income and Expenditure account is beginning to show reduced levels of surplus compared with the last two years. This “year” yields a surplus of £23.41.

Turning first to the Income and Expenditure account, A Gardener’s Delight produced a splendid £1,684.00 (a little down from 2021 sadly) and a further £1,565.91 was raised for charity through the individual efforts of the openers. This is a very important event for the Society and we are, as ever, much indebted to Sue Edwards for organising the event, and to all who opened their gardens.

The losses on the two shows held are of the level expected, and we also anticipated some losses on the workshops, talks and outings.

Overall profits were partly affected by printing the schedules for the next two years without charging again for the advertisements – charging again felt unreasonable in the circumstances. On the positive side, we obtained £100 compensation from TSB for poor service, not for the first time unfortunately.

Following a precedent set last year, the Society now donates 25% of the profits from A Gardener’s Delight to the charities nominated by the garden openers. As a consequence, £421 was paid out in July this year. The Accounts also show the equivalent payments for 2021 (£475.62), payments for which no accrual was made last year because the decision had not yet been taken.

The Balance Sheet shows that the Society ended the year with a cash balance of £17,479.05, virtually unchanged from last year.

Ian then asked if there were any questions: NONE

Election of President

David Fitch agreed to stand again.

Proposed by Graeme Boast/ Seconded by Keith Lewis

Election of Life Vice Presidents

Mr & Mrs Lewis

Proposed by Ian Garrett /Seconded by Dot Carter

Election of Chairman

Graeme Boast agreed to stand again.

Proposed by Keith Lewis/ Seconded by Ian Garrett

Election of Vice Chairman

Vacant

Election of Officers

(Voted in on block)

Hon Sec. Keith Lewis

Hon. Treasurer. Ian Garrett

Show Captain VACANT

Show Sec: Gillian Ross

Membership Sec. Cathy Varney & David Dunning

Election of the General committee

(Voted in on block)

Jasmine Heath. Anne Bance. Lesley Milne

AOB

1. Mary Garrett asked what the role of the General Committee was. Ian Garrett responded by saying that some of their tasks were to help organise the shows, discuss membership. Discuss and help organise events.
2. Keith Lewis said that TWOAT were organising an Open Garden in Kingswood as a way of attracting more members who live in Kingswood.
3. Mr Perkins said that he and his wife were delighted to be new members and had enjoyed events this year, including the trip to Wisley. Unfortunately, as they are hard of hearing, they had found it difficult to hear what has been said at the AGM. The committee will discuss at a future meeting and will try to rectify this problem.
4. Margaret Fitch asked how many members the Society had. Cathy Varney replied that Membership stands at 234, which was slightly down post Covid.

The meeting was followed by an illustrated talk by members of the NGS.