

Crowhurst & District Horticultural Society

Annual General Meeting - Minutes

Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at 7:15pm – Mantel Farm, Henley Down

1. **Members present and apologies for absence**

Mary Boorman, Alan Humphrey, Bob and Margaret Clifford, Sue & Phil Laimber, Kerry Weller.

Apologies: Oliver Boorman-Humphrey, Bruce and Margaret Cripps, Tom and Shirley Masters, Rose Cooper, Tracey Docksey

2. **Minutes of the last AGM**

Read

a. **Matters arising from the minutes**

None. Minutes proposed as correct by Mary, Seconded Bob

3. **Chairman's Report**

Given by Mary Boorman

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Alan reported that the society finances remained in a sound state.

a. **Presentation of accounts**

As of 31st August 2024, accounts were:

Bank:	£ 4316.30	
Cash:	£ 986.62	
Total:	£ 5302.92	Up £118.32 on 2023

b. **Auditors**

Agreed to continue with Tracey Docksey as auditor. Alan thanked Tracey for her continued support.

5. **Reports from Committee Members**

a. **Show Secretary Report**

Given by Alan on behalf of Oliver.

6. **Election of Officer's**

a. **President**

Position remains vacant. Mary will continue to search for a replacement with John Feltwell proposed as an ideal candidate if he was willing to take it on.

b. **Chairman**

Mary Boorman	Proposed: Kerry	Seconded: Bob
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c. **Show Secretary**

Oliver Boorman-Humphrey	Proposed: Bob	Seconded: Margaret
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d. **Treasurer**

Alan Humphrey	Proposed: Bob	Seconded: Kerry
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e. **Membership Secretary**

Alan Humphrey	Proposed: Bob	Seconded: Sue L
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Election of Committee

f. **Honey Bee Representative**

Mary informed members that Phil had stepped down from the role and thanked him for his work over the past 12 months. Phil and Kerry proposed that Fern Burgess would be an ideal candidate for the position. Since she was not present at the AGM, Alan agreed to contact her separately to discuss. (She has now accepted the role.)

g. **Children's Representative**

It was proposed to remove this role, which was agreed.

7. **Shows & Events**

a. **Photographic classes**

Mary raised that the committee were pleased with the increased support in photographic classes over the past year but that it would be good to encourage it further. Phil raised that the widespread use of digital photography may discourage people from entering since we require printed entries. He proposed the society purchase a small photo printer so entrants could provide their photo entries

digitally and the society take responsibility for printing them. Alan agreed to investigate the cost and effort involved and discuss it further with Oliver.

b. Outings and Coach trips

Sue L raised that it would be good if the society organised more outings and trips for members, to make membership of the society more appealing. Mary agreed that the garden visits this year had been positive and that she would try to identify more venues for visits in 2025. It was also discussed whether it would be beneficial to hire a coach or mini-bus to visit some sites further afield, but Mary pointed out this is unlikely to be viable in the short term, due to the limited number of attendees at each visit. People also raised that being away for full days may be difficult so more local outings were preferred.

c. Disposal of unsold jumble sale items

Mary raised the problem of disposing of unsold jumble had again re-emerged. Phil volunteered to take any unsold jumble after future sales and distribute to charity shops etc.

8. Subscriptions

a. Proposed freeze at £5 per year

Mary proposed keeping subscriptions at £5 per person per year. Seconded by Bob.

9. Any other business

a. Proposed change to society name

It was discussed that the name of the society could be altered from 'horticultural society' to 'gardening group' to make the society more appealing to villagers and to make it sound less formal. Mary pointed out that other groups in the area had recently made similar changes and they had found it had a positive effect of the support the group. Alan stated that renaming the society would involve significant effort and expense as most of the printed material and advertising uses the society's current name. It was agreed to take no immediate action, but to keep the idea open.

b. Next AGM

2024 was the first AGM to be held away from the Village Hall, this year at Mantel Farm with the kind agreement of Kerry and Jason Weller. Mary pointed out that it was disappointing to see so few members attending the meeting and raised whether the timing and location of the AGM should be amended to encourage further attendees. The floor discussed whether moving the AGM into the Spring or Summer months would be better to avoid the colder, darker evenings in October. Mary agreed to look into alternative dates for 2025.

Close of Meeting : 8:30pm