

NORTHIAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 6 December 2024 in Northiam Village Hall.

OPEN: meeting opened at 7.30 pm with Mrs Carol Knowles in the Chair.

PRESENT: The President and approximately 56 members and guests.

WELCOME: The Chair welcomed everyone to the Society's 127th AGM and to the Christmas Social gathering afterwards.

1. **APOLOGIES** no apologies for absence were received.

2. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023**

Members were invited to obtain copies of the 2023 AGM minutes from the Secretary in the Autumn newsletter. No matters had arisen from the minutes, and they were therefore accepted.

3. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The audited Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year ending 30 September 2024 had been distributed. The Treasurer was pleased to report that the Society had made an overall surplus for the year and continued to maintain a healthy financial position. Total Society funds amounted to £11,568.55. The Treasurer thanked Mrs. Ann Antrobus who had kindly completed the annual audit for 2024.

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ACCOUNTS**

There was one question from a member who asked how the funds held could be used to benefit the members given the amount the Society has at hand. The Treasurer confirmed that the Committee will consider how some of the funds could be spent at their January meeting, whilst retaining a balance for the security of the Society and all members are invited to submit ideas. The Chair thanked Mrs. Moon for her report and asked for a proposal to accept the audited accounts for the year ending 30 September 2024. Proposed by Alison Kirk, seconded by Angie Lewis and agreed unanimously.

5. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Chair reported that Mrs. Sandy Alexander had stood down from the Committee and thanked her for their contribution to the Society.

The Chair outlined the present position regarding the Office bearers and existing Committee Members:

Mr. Fergus Garret, Life President

Mrs. Carol Knowles is willing to continue as Chair

Mrs. Penny Bone is willing to continue as Membership Secretary

Mrs. Della Weight is willing to continue as the Hon. Secretary

Mrs. Deborah Moon is willing to continue as the Hon. Treasurer

Mrs. Linda Belton is willing to continue as Show Secretary

Mr. Lewis Boshier, Mrs. Joan Davis, Mrs. Rosemary Husey and Mrs. Christine Luxton are willing to continue as Committee Members.

In the absence of other nominations, the Chair asked that the voting for the above be taken en bloc. Proposed by Michael Belton, seconded by Clive Streeter and agreed unanimously.

6. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Mr. Garrett gave a short address on the Society's year of events and thanked the Committee for their work and the Members for their support.

The Chair thanked Mr. Garrett and the staff and students at Great Dixter for their on-going help and support, particularly at the Spring and Autumn Shows and the annual Plant Sale.

7. PRESENTATIONS

The President presented the Royal Horticultural Society's Banksian Medal to Mrs. Gillian Harrison.

The President presented the Society's Christopher Lloyd Cup to Mrs. Margaret Davies.

8. The Chair announced that the SUBSCRIPTION will remain unchanged at £5.00 per member for the calendar year 2025.
9. The Committee had no proposals to change the CONSTITUTION.
10. The Chair nominated Mrs. Ann Antrobus as HON AUDITOR. Proposed by Paul Lewis, seconded by Michael Belton and agreed unanimously.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair was pleased to announce that the Society has donated £500 to the Great Dixter Student Education Fund. A letter of thanks from Great Dixter was read to the meeting.

In closing, the Chair thanked all the Committee members for their support in 2024. Appreciation was also expressed to Mrs. Rosemary Husey for the buffet and to Mrs. Sylvia Arnold for the table arrangements.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED
AT 8.08 pm