NORTHIAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 5 December 2025 in Northiam Village Hall.

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

PRESENT: The Chair and approximately 67 members and guests.

WELCOME: The Chair welcomed everyone to the Society's 128th AGM and to the Christmas Social gathering afterwards.

1. APOLOGIES Apologies for absence were received from Mr. F Garrett, President.

2. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

   Members were invited to obtain copies of the 2024 AGM minutes from the Secretary or read them online 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 2025 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 £11,184.47. The Treasurer thanked Mrs. Ann Antrobus who had kindly completed the annual audit for 2025.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ACCOUNTS

   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 Angie Lewis, seconded by Ineke White and agreed unanimously.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

   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 Bosher, 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 Penny Cunningham, seconded by Sue Gunther and agreed unanimously.

6. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

In the absence of the President who sent his sincere apologies, the Chair 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. Averil Phillips.

The President presented the Society's Christopher Lloyd Cup to Mrs. Christine Fairweather.

8. The Chair announced that the SUBSCRIPTION will remain unchanged at £5.00 per member for the calendar year 2026.

9. The Committee had no proposals to change the CONSTITUTION.

10. The Chair nominated Mrs. Ann Antrobus as HON AUDITOR. Proposed by Michael Belton, seconded by Penny Cuningham and agreed unanimously.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair was pleased to announce that the Society has donated £1,000 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 2025. Appreciation was also expressed to Mrs. Rosemary Husey for the buffet and to Mrs. Alison Kirk for the table arrangements.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.00 pm