

NORTHIAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 8 December 2023 in Northiam Village Hall.

OPEN: meeting opened at 7.40 pm with Mrs Linda Belton and Mrs Carol Knowles in the Chair.

PRESENT: The President and approximately 70 members and guests.

WELCOME: The Chair welcomed everyone to the Society's 126th AGM and to the Christmas Social gathering afterwards.

1. **APOLOGIES** for absence were received from Carol Cole, Alison Kirk, Chris Nixey, Mr & Mrs Passmore and Della Weight.

2. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022**

Members were invited to obtain copies of the 2022 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 2023 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 £10,463.79. The Treasurer thanked Mrs. Ann Antrobus who had kindly completed the annual audit for 2023.

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ACCOUNTS**

With no 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 2023. Proposed by Mr. Clive Streeter, seconded by Mr. Richard Gill. This was agreed unanimously.

5. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Chair reported that Mrs. Julia Byron and Mrs. Alison Kirk had stood down from the Committee and they were thanked for their contributions to the Society.

Mrs. Sandy Alexander and Mrs. Christine Luxton had kindly offered to serve on the Committee. Proposed by Mrs. Sue Clark, seconded by Mr. Michael Clark.

The Chair then 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. Linda Belton has stood down as Co-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 and Mrs. Rosemary Husey 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 Mr. Mike Belton, seconded by Mr. 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. Linda Belton and Mr. Mike Belton.

The President presented the Society's Christopher Lloyd Cup to Mrs. Clare Barber.

8. The Chair announced that the SUBSCRIPTION will remain unchanged at £5.00 per member for the calendar year 2023.
9. The Committee had no proposals to change the CONSTITUTION.
10. The Chair nominated Mrs. Ann Antrobus as HON AUDITOR. Proposed by Mr. Mike Belton, seconded by Mrs. Sue Gunther and agreed unanimously. In recognition of her long voluntary service in the role of Auditor, the President presented Mrs. Antrobus with Lifetime Membership of the Society.

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.

The Society's new website was now "live" and appreciation was expressed to Amy Cottingham for her work in developing this. Members were invited to refer to this for more details about the Society and its annual programme.

In closing, the Chair thanked all the Committee members for their support in 2023. 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 8.07 pm