

CRAWLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the Fifty Eighth Annual General Meeting of the Crawley Horticultural Society held on Thursday 24th February 2011.

The meeting was attended by 33 members.

- Apologies;** Apologies were received from Mr B Morton, Mrs P Harber, Miss M Bloomfield and Mrs C Drummond.
- Minutes;** Minutes of the Fifty Sixth Annual General Meeting were approved.
Proposed; Mr G Jones Seconded; Mr A Drummond
- Matters Arising;**
Mr Derek Mountain and Mrs Beryl Mountain are also members of the Walled Garden team.
- Secretary's Report;** Mrs C Smith reported that the Society had had a good year as a whole. The shows were well supported with excellent exhibits. Again our Walled Garden team had impressed the RHS judges and we now have another certificate to hang in the hall. Mrs Smith apologised to the members for not fulfilling her post as Secretary in a satisfactory manner. She reported her resignation from her post as Society Secretary as of this meeting. She expressed her best wishes to her replacement.
- Treasurers Report;** The Treasurer's end of year 2010 report shows Trading sales of £26,286 which was down by £1,078 on the previous year. This resulted in a Shop Trading Profit of £4,585, a drop of £3,571 the previous year. Members subscriptions were £2,420 which is down from 2009 figure of £2,594. Hall hire was increased to £2,399, up from £2,291. Donations were considerably lower at £1,946, from £3,068. Note. In previous years accounting, Hall Hire was included under donations, hence apparent discrepancy in the donations figure. The five year lease ran out in 2010 and was replaced with another in tranche on December 2010, which came into effect with arrears in April 2011. The rates have benefited from the Small Business Rate Relief which means we have not paid rent since October last year. Rent and Rates were £1,987, from £2,670. Members' Equity at 31st December 2010 stood at £60,584, up from £59,128 on previous year.

A proposal for acceptance of these accounts was made by; Mr H Miller, seconded by Mr J Crippen and carried unanimously.

Election of President and Deputy President;

President Mr B Gunning.

Proposed Mrs C Martin Seconded Mrs B Mountain

Deputy President Mr R Spraget

Proposed Mrs D Budgen Seconded Mrs S Jones

Voted en bloc

Election of Officers and Committee;

Chairman Mr F Smith

Proposed Mr R Spraget Seconded Mr I Budgen

Vice Chairman Mr H Miller

Proposed Mrs C Martin Seconded Mrs P Chiappori

Secretary Mr T Figg

Proposed Mr J Green Seconded Mr G Wareing

Treasurer Mr P Armstrong

Proposed Mr R Bell Seconded Mrs S Jones

Trading Secretary Mr J Green

Proposed Mr T Figg Seconded Mrs P Chiappori

Membership Secretary Mr P Nash

Proposed Mr A Drummont Seconded Mr I Budgen

Re-Election of Committee Members, 5 for re-election;

Mr R Bell, Mr T Figg, Mr B Morton, Mr G Jones and Mrs S Jones. Mrs K Ashton, was officially voted on to the Committee.

Proposed Mr. H Miller. Seconded Mr I Budgen

New Members;

There were no new member nominations

8. Elections of Auditors;

Richard Place Dobson Services Ltd

Proposed Mr J Green Seconded Mr G Jones

9. Membership Fees;

The membership fees are to remain at 1 year £4.00 and 4 year £14.00.

Proposed Mr P Armstrong Seconded Mr J Green

10. Constitution;

The content of the constitution which had been distributed, was debated and discussed on, and finally approved for acceptance.

Proposed John Crippen Seconded Peter Armstrong

11. President's Address;

Miss M Clackson opened her address by informing members of her retirement as President as of this meeting. She expressed her grateful thanks to the members for all their tireless help in making the Society what it is today after so many years.

She said she was sad to leave but felt she could no longer hold the post and it was time to hand over the reins to someone else.

She praised the work done by Trading Secretary Mr J Green, and recognised that it must be a very difficult task at times to secure good prices for our members.

She also wanted to pass on her thanks to all the dedicated shop helpers who give up their spare time to work in the shop, and especially the Thursday morning gang who not only stock the shop and compound but also do all the minor repairs to the building as well as keeping the garden neat and tidy.

Miss Clackson was pleased to see that some of the building maintenance and decorating has also been addressed.

Miss Clackson thanked Mr A Moore for his many years of dedication to the Society and hoped that he would continue his work in the shop. She also thanked Mrs C Smith for her work as Secretary over the past 3 years and wished them both well for the future. She then thanked Mr B Gunning for stepping in as the new President saying she knew he will hold the position well. Likewise she thanked Mr R Spraget for taking up the post of Deputy President, and Mr H Miller in the post of Vice Chair.

Miss Clackson closed by thanking all the members for attending the A.G.M. on this winter evening and hoped that they would continue to support the Society.

11. Any Other Business;

Mr R Spraget was proud to announce another Certificate of Merit received from the RHS South and South East in Bloom 2010 for the Walled Garden at Tilgate Park.

Mr I Budgen thanked Miss Mabel Clackson for all her work throughout her time as President and all the other groups she has been involved in. Also her wonderful quizzes she has hosted and the money she has helped to raise for the Society's groups.

Chairman Mr F Smith asked Miss Clackson to perform one last task and she presented Mr A Moore with a Bronze RHS Long Service Medal. Mr Moore was delighted and surprised by the award, and unusually lost for words. Miss Clackson was presented with a gift basket which she received with graceful thanks, and Mr T Figg (new Secretary) presented Mrs C Smith with an Orchid. Mrs Smith was surprised and delighted with her gift and promised to take good care of it

Meeting closed at 8.32pm Followed by refreshments.