

CRAWLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the Fifty Ninth Annual General Meeting of the Crawley Horticultural Society held on Thursday 23rd February 2012.

The meeting was attended by 22 members.

1. **Apologies** were received from Mr John Green. Mr Peter Cole. Mrs Christine Martin. Mr Peter Nash. Mr Barry Morton. Mrs Beryl Armstrong. Mrs Mavis Bloomfield.
2. **Minutes** of the Fifty Ninth Annual General Meeting were approved.
Proposed; Mr G. Jones Seconded; Mr H. Miller
3. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising with the minutes.
4. **Chairman's Report:** Mr F Smith reported that quite a lot had been done regarding decorating to the hall, kitchen and toilets etc, and considering the amount of money we have spent on it, our funds have held up quite well for the society. The chairman wanted to thank all those on the committee for their support and also to all the helpers for all the time and work they had given to the society over the past year.
5. **Secretary's Report:** Trevor Figg reported that it had been his first year of being secretary for the Crawley Horticultural Society, and apologised if he was a little green behind the ears and had inadvertently stepped on a few peoples toes during his short time in office.
Information was supplied regarding our current membership status, and highlighted information regarding our Life Members in so much we do not have an exact number who actually still exist as we have no way of keeping correct records unless notified.
We are currently trying to update records for those members who have email addresses as we had decided on committee that the last newsletter would be posted to everyone including those on email, but in future we may possibly send the newsletter to those who have a email address in this way, so it was important that we had the correct email addresses for those concerned.

The Secretary expressed his continued efforts to move the society on with his " Moving On" project to increase membership and publicise the society and its groups, shows and shop etc.

6. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's end of year 2011 report shows Trading sales of £27,839 which was up by £1,553 on the previous year. This resulted in a Shop Trading Profit of £4,991, a increase of £406 the previous year. Members subscriptions were £2,453 which has slightly increased from £2,420 in 2010. Hall hire was significantly down from £2,399 in 2010 to £1,095 this year 2011. we presently only have three regular groups who book.. Donations were up slightly from £1,946, to £2,408 which was partly due to another quiz night being squeezed in. Rent and Rates were £2,198, from £1,987 last year.
Regarding the refund of £249.00 which included £100 compensation, this is due to our long standing argument with our bank RBS, who continued to charge us commercial rates to then eventually agree to put us on the correct tariff.

Our deficit for our shows for 2011 which is unavoidable is £485.00 compared to £571.00 last year.

As previously mentioned by our chairman, the society spent £4,696 on redecorating the hall, kitchen and toilets.

Members' Equity as at 31st December 2011 stood at £58,097, down from £60,584 on previous year.

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

7. The meeting was passed back to the Chairman for the election of President and Vice president and being that there were no more proposals presented, Mr Bill Gunning and Mr Ron Spraget agreed to stand for another year

Election of President and Deputy President;

President	Mr B Gunning.		
Proposed	Mr D Budgen	Seconded	Mrs S. Jones
Deputy President	Mr R Spraget		
Proposed	Mr H Miller	Seconded	Mr D. Mountain

Before the election of officers, Bill Gunning announced to the members that Peter Nash had spoken to John Green and a few other members several months earlier, to the effect that he would be standing down as Membership Secretary and from the committee, but would gladly provide his services to train another person as to what is required to run the membership data base etc.

Ray Bell had kindly offered to fill the post as membership secretary and had spent time with Peter Nash to understand what the role required and with provided training with the XL database.

The President read out the individual names of the officers and committee for re-election, being that there were no further nominations presented, and if agreed with the members would be 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	Mrs S Jones	Seconded	Mr R Spraget
Treasurer	Mr P Armstrong		
Proposed	Mr R Bell	Seconded	Mrs G Jones

Bill Gunning took this opportunity to let everyone know who hadn't read the local newspapers that Tilgate Park Walled Garden has been relieved from commercial interest and the walled garden will continue in its present format for all to enjoy, including the small plot which represents the society and those who generously give up their time to keep it in good order. It was with great pleasure that the garden was given a "Highly Commended Award" In the Crawley in Bloom competition, which is part of the South East in Bloom annual event.

11. **Any Other Business;**

It was asked about the sending of the newsletter by post rather than sending it out to those on email by this method. It had been a committee decision to post to everyone this year who were on our records, but there was a small possibility that those who had just joined or not renewed in time may have not been posted the latest Newsletter.

Mr Ivan Budgen liked to thank the committee for all the work they had carried out this year and also to the president for his time spent for the society as a whole during the past year.

The president wanted to take this opportunity to let everyone know who was at this meeting that the officers and committee had decided to award Peter Nash with a Honorary Life Member award, for all his devoted work as a membership secretary and also his tireless time and efforts he has put in in many other aspects of the society as a whole. His Wife Barbara will also be given a bouquet of flowers for her support throughout the years.

This presentation will be made at a later date when both are available.

The meeting closed at 20.46 Followed by refreshments.