

Minutes of the Sixtieth Annual General Meeting of the Crawley Horticultural Society held on Thursday 28th February 2013.

The meeting was attended by 26 members.

1. Apologies; Apologies were received from Mr G. Jones. Mrs S. Jones. Mrs H. Bergin.
Mr P. Cole.
2. Minutes; Minutes of the Fifty Ninth Annual General Meeting were approved.
Proposed; Mr I. Budgen Seconded; Mr R. Bell
3. Matters Arising;
There were no matters arising from the minutes presented.
4. Chairman's Report; Mr F. Smith reported that last year was one that all us gardeners wanted to forget, with terrible weather which not only impacted ourselves but the society as a whole, especially for our shows and exhibitors, but being what we gardeners are, we came through it as best as possible, finishing off with our brilliant Sixtieth Anniversary event, an event which will be remembered for many years to come. Let this year be eventful for all of us.
5. Secretary's Report; Mr T. Figg first wanted to notify members of what came to light when sending invitations to members for the Sixtieth Anniversary celebration event held at the society's premises. Invitations were sent by letter to those that did not have access to email and by email to those that did. During this exercise it was highlighted exactly how many email addresses we had, which were incorrect, by receiving notification of failure to deliver notices.
This resulted in us having to send letters to those with incorrect email addresses which was both time consuming and adding extra cost. On a second note we also made enquiries regarding our life member's details, and found that the society were unaware of some 45 members who had either moved or deceased. I would like to take this opportunity to apologise to anyone who failed to get an invitation for the event. We are now painstakingly attempting to ensure that all addresses and email addresses are correct.
There was a lot of interest at the Sixtieth Anniversary event regarding the display of memorabilia on the main stage and we are sure that there must still be a lot of interesting items hidden away somewhere, which we would be grateful to obtain, and have now set up an archivist position so that we can record the society over its many years of existence.
I would like to thank and kindly announce that John Crippen has agreed to carry on running our website which is of a great benefit to the society and its members, we have had over 2369 people looking at our website pages this year which is not only our members, but also the general public as a whole, which can only be a good thing for the society.
6. Treasurer's Report; The Treasurer's end of year 2012 report shows a net surplus this year of £1,704 compared to last year 2011 of a deficit of £2,178. Membership subscriptions are down slightly this year £2,314 compared to £2,453 in 2011. Hall hire has increased this year which is due to a lot of effort from those responsible and has accounted for bookings of £1,421, an increase of £326.00 for the year.
Shop trading has increased this year from £4,991 in 2011 to £5,935. In 2012, this shows that our trading secretary and his assistants are working well on the shop sales front.
Donations are down this year, but this is due to the society only holding one quiz night.
Regarding expenses our rent and rates are now down to £1,852 compared to £2,198 in 2011, this is due to us now being eligible not to have to pay rates, and long may this continue.
Unfortunately an increase in utility services for water, heat and light has amounted in an increase of £220.00 this year.
A contributing factor to our surplus for the year is due to only £410.00 being spent on repairs and maintenance compared to £4,696 last year.

Regarding administration expenses, our postage rose significantly, this was due to the increased cost of stamps this year for the newsletter and 60th anniversary invitations, plus we also brought a surplus to help save costs later on.

Our net general fund assets stand at £40,502 and with our earmarked fund assets now give us a total of net cash assets of £59,097.

A proposal for acceptance of these accounts was made by; Mr D. Mountain seconded by Mr I. Budgen. and it was carried unanimously.

7.

Election of President and Deputy President;

President Mr B Gunning.

Proposed Mr D. Mountain Seconded Mr A. Moore

Deputy President Mr R Spraget

Proposed Mrs D Budgen Seconded Mrs K. Ashton

Voted en bloc

8.

Election of Officers and Committee;

We have received a resignation from our Vice Chairman, Henry Miller, who has decided to stand down this year and let someone move up. We have another nomination for Vice Chairman and this is John Green.

Chairman Mr F Smith

Proposed Mr R Spraget Seconded Mr I Budgen

Vice Chairman Mr J. Green.

Proposed Mr B. Morton Seconded Mr A. Moore

Secretary Mr T Figg

Proposed Mr J Green Seconded Mr G Wareing

Treasurer Mr P Armstrong

Proposed Mr I. Budgen Seconded Mrs P. Chiappori

Trading Secretary Mr J Green

Proposed Mr T Figg Seconded Mrs P Chiappori

Membership Secretary Mr R. Bell.

Proposed Mr P. Nash Seconded Mr I Budgen

Re-Election of Committee Members, 2 for re-election;
Mrs P. Chiappori. Mr S. Dalton.

Proposed Mr I. Budgen Seconded Mr A. Moore.

New Committee Members;

There were no new committee member nominations

9.

Elections of Auditors;

Richard Place Dobson Services Ltd

Proposed Mr J Green Seconded Mrs B. Mountain

10.

Membership Fees;

At the last committee meeting the treasurer recommended that we retain the membership fees as they stand for another year, this was endorsed by the committee.

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

Proposed Mr D. Mountain Seconded Mr R. Bell

11. President's Address;

Mr Bill Gunning liked to thank everyone for attending this 60th AGM of the Crawley Horticultural Society, and this 60th anniversary had got himself and a few others reminiscing over the past years, this was our presidents 38th AGM attendance and he didn't think he had missed any over the years, and some members present here now, have been coming even longer.

Back then, we had over 2000 members, and with queues outside the shop waiting to buy stock.

Around 1982 I became show secretary, and at my first show, in the marquee next door we had 600 entries, those days are gone unfortunately, probably never to return. However the society is still going strong, with seven shows a year, albeit a bit smaller than the past, sponsor seven different groups, a social group, four of our stalwart members upkeep our CHS demonstration plot at the walled garden in Tilgate Park. It is wondered how many other local societies can boast these sort of figures these days, not many I would think.

Gardening is supposed to be one of the fastest moving groups in the land, especially with lots of people growing their own vegetables, so we are told on Gardeners World. Although there are more people going to major shows like Chelsea and Hampton Court, record attendances at Gardeners World Live, also big queues at Wisley etc, this doesn't seem to be reflected in local gardening societies, many societies have had to close down due to lack of support, which is a great shame.

Our society has had to adapt to these changes, and what with our quiz nights, hall hire, commercial events etc, bringing in additional funds which has helped us to survive where others have not. The society is in good hands, and I would like to thank the committee, shop helpers, and all those that help out to make the society what it is today.

8. Any Other Business;

The Secretary reported to the president that he had not received any items to be discussed under any other business prior to 1st February 2013

Meeting closed at 8.39pm Followed by refreshments.