

Capel Horticultural Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of AGM held on Tuesday 8th November 2016 in Capel Parish Hall.

A total of 18 members attended including: Neil Carter, Maxine Carter, David Hall, Jo Collinson, Sally Griffin, Mandy Schryver, Nuala Seelig, Chris Coke, Jackie Coke, David Silliman, Norman Greenwood, Margaret Greenwood, Stan Venitt, Janet Venitt, Kerry Hall, Clive Coward Frances Coward, John Ashwood.

1. President's Opening Address : Mr Neil Carter

The success of this year's summer show had been down to the magnificent team work shown by all involved at this year's summer show. Particular thanks were extended to members of the Capel Cricket Club who had very ably managed the car parking and to James Cole who had undertaken the onerous but essential task of completing the Risk Assessment.

Ann South, who has organised the Summer Show stewards for several years now was thanked for her dedication to the society and is to be made a Life Member. Ann has stepped down from this task and Kerry Hall will be taking over from her.

After twenty years' highly efficient and dedicated service Suzanne Burlinson has resigned her position as Treasurer. In his capacity as auditor Neil has never found a mistake in her work. Suzanne has been presented with a £50 garden voucher as a small token of the Society's thanks. We hope that David Silliman will be stepping into Suzanne's shoes.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Suzanne Burlinson, Mrs Jane Major, Mr Sam Jenks, Mrs Rosemary Goddard and Mr John Morgan.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2015.

The Minutes for the Annual General Meeting 2015, having been circulated were adopted.

4. Matters arising

(Min.15 AOB) After consultation with RHS Wisley it had been confirmed that Flora awards are now only awarded for meritorious show exhibits

5. Chairman's report: Mr David Hall

Capel lunches: The society continues to support the community where it can and makes a point of preparing the Capel lunches at least once a year and with organising a litter pick in conjunction with the Parish

Council once a year. This winter the society is also hoping to be involved with the Parish Council in planting up various areas of the village with daffodils - using bulbs kindly donated by a committee member and which will form part of a 'traffic calming' exercise along The Street in Capel.

Quiz and Supper: Once again thanks to Mandy and Jane. This was a fun evening with the menu being simplified and the preparation being more equally shared amongst committee members. This event makes a major contribution to the society's own fund raising.

Spring Show: This year the Daffodils started flowering in January and continued through for five months so there were still plenty of flowers to exhibit at the show. This year we reverted back to holding the show on a Sunday to try and increase attendance and the number of exhibits.

Plant Sale: This went well with most of the 'bought in' plants coming from Crossways nursery on the Purley Way but we need to encourage more home-grown produce as that is where we make more money. Members were also encouraged to plant up any unwanted herbaceous plants to overwinter for 2017

Open Gardens: Brilliantly organised by Rosemary. Eleven gardens entered. Very well organised and well prepared gardens. Hope to have garden entries from Capel and Ockley in 2017.

Summer Show: Apart from a heavy shower during the morning the rain held off for most of the show. There were some good exhibits but ways need to be found for encouraging vegetable growing, particularly root crops. The type of vegetables grown has changed over the years.

Mandy did an excellent job organising the outside events and ringing the changes with side shows. Kerry will be taking over organising the Stewards in 2017. There was disappointment that although the Dorking Ad had sent a photographer the photos appearing in the DA were very poor and unrepresentative of what was on offer at the show.

Garden visits: The visit to Waterperry gardens had proved very successful and most enjoyable. There had been requests for follow up visits to Great Dixter and Highgrove in 2017.

Decorating Christmas Trees: Once again the Society will be decorating a Christmas tree in the churchyard - (this year on Saturday December 3rd)

Thanks were extended to David for preparing his report.

6. Treasurers Report: Mrs Suzanne Burlinson (presented by Mr Neil Carter)

Suzanne was unable to attend the meeting due to illness but wished her thanks to be extended to Neil for auditing the accounts. This being the last time she would be presenting the accounts she was very disappointed to leave with a deficit of £2,308.23, this due mainly to there being no event in the marquee post show on the Sunday after the Show (£1,672 last year), However the Society was anticipating monies from the 'Show Day' pot (which next year will be a separate account and therefore allocation should be speedier)

Cheques for £3,305.22 were delivered on 03/11/16 and a further cheque from Arthur Lodge Veterinary Practice arrived the same day for

£260 for sponsorship of the schedules - the Society has since paid £1022.26 for the marquee deposit for 2017 which means that the Society has a surplus of £234.73 as of today.

The top of Pg. 2 of the accounts under 'Show Days' details the Society's receipts/ expenses on both show days. NB. Outside Events' shows zero, this is now part of the show day pot.

For next year Show accounts (below plant sale) all these monies will be paid from the separate 'Show Account' which the Classic Car Show and Capel Horticultural Society are opening; this will be jointly funded and administered and will be undertaken immediately. This will remove the onus from the Society to pay bills which are shared and makes matters easier for members of either organisation who require reimbursement. This year CHS paid all those listed.

It was noted by Mr Coward that organising the monies this way would mean both organisations will be sharing the risks.

The Society holds net reserves of £16,000.

Suzanne was sorry not to be able to attend the AGM, but conveyed her thanks to all committee members for their cooperation over the years and promised her continued support of the Society and is looking forward to being able to actually see the Show in future years.

Adoption of Treasurer's Report: Proposed - Chris Coke
Seconded - John Ashwood

Copy of accounts filed with Minutes

7. Resignations from the Committee

Sam Jenks and Suzanne Burlinson stood down from the committee.

8. to 14.Election of President, Vice-President and Officers

Office	Proposer	Seconded
President	Mr N Carter	Mr D Hall
Vice-President	Mrs F Coward Coward	Mr D Hall
Hon. Treasurer	Mr D Silliman	Mr N Carter
Hon. Secretary	Mrs J Coke	Mrs A Schryver
Hon. Show Secretary	Mrs Jo Collinson	Mrs N Seelig
Hon. Auditor	Mr N Carter	Mrs A Schryver
Committee	Voted en bloc	Mr C Coward
		Mr C Coke

Committee members and officers: Mrs Jane Chilvers, Mrs Mandy Schryver, Mrs Suzanne Burlinson, Mr David Hall, Mrs Nuala Seelig, Mrs Jane Major, Mrs Kerry Hall, Mrs Andrea Rhodes, Mrs Sally Griffin, Dr John Ashwood,

Mrs Rosemary Goddard, Mr David Silliman, Mrs Jackie Coke,
Mrs Jo Collinson.

It was hoped that further nominations for Vice Presidents would come forward during the year as these do not need to be elected at an AGM

15. Any Other Business

- (i) The chairman welcomed Mr David Silliman as the new Hon.Treasurer. David would be converting the accounts and text into a budget and showing that CHS makes a profit over the year and enabling funds to be ploughed back into the Society.
- (ii) It was hoped that some of the funds raised from Society events could be used to finance the garden visits which have become so popular over the last few years. A list of 4 / 5 places to visit is required - 2 gardens / yr. - spring and autumn.
- (iii) Show awards: To reduce time spent on presentations at the end of the summer show and to hopefully increase attendance at the AGM it had been suggested that the adult Show awards be presented at the AGM so that those who have won can be celebrated.
- (iv) Increasing membership - Encouraging the 30/40yr olds to join the committee / become interested in gardening /be a role model to their children by taking an interest in gardening.
- (v) Seek to encourage the local school in gardening activities
- (vi) Celebrations for 125th Anniversary of foundation of CHS in 2018 - Undertake to contact other Horticultural Societies - Rusper, Newdigate, and Ockley.
Contact Gardeners Question Time regarding inviting them to Capel / following up on the previous invitation 40 yrs ago. Alternatively set up our own panel and invite audience questions.
- (vii) The introduction of the Potato challenge had been a popular addition to the schedule this year and it was hoped to expand this in 2017 as well as modifying the Sunflower competition.
- (viii) Wreath making: There was a preference for having a wreath making demonstration as an inside event.

16. President's Closing Remarks

Thanks were extended to all for attending and providing refreshments.