

**HELLEDON HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of AGM held at Hellesdon Community Centre on**  
**20th November 2023**

Meeting opened 19:31

**Present:** President - Alan Bidewell (AB), Vice President Linda Grinch (LG), Committee - John Knowles - Chair (JK); Sandy Gooch - Treasurer (SG); Zoë Fail -Secretary (ZF); Shirley King - Events (SK); Ursula Franklin - Show Co-ordinator (UF); Jacqueline Maxwell (JM); Gerry Dunton (GD); Noel Hardy (NH); Caroline Smith (CS) plus Minute Secretary for these minutes Susie Dove (SD) 26 members and 1 guest

**Welcome**

JK opened the meeting, welcoming those in attendance. SK informed the attendees about the death of John Houghton, former member who had been Head Gardener at Hellesdon Hospital (had planted many of the large trees seen today) and had attended his memorial. A minute's silence was held.

**Apologies for absence**

Howard and Wendy Norton; Joan and David Claxton; Jenny Hewitt

**Introduction by the President**

Alan Bidewell (AB) thanked people for coming, highlighted the 3 good shows, praising the Show Secretary for the hard work undertaken, and commiserated about the weather for the Garden Party, with the offer to hold it next year if still President.

**Review of AGM Minutes held on 21st November 2022**

Accepted and signed by the chair

**Chairman's Report**

JK had provided copies to members. Points drawn out on JK's background to becoming Chair; upholding Sue Prutton's vision for HHA in bringing it into the modern day – the importance of equalities and ensuring members are protected – and keeping the Association alive. Thanked AB, Linda and Clive Grint (LG & CG) in their roles as President and Vice Presidents. Thanked NH, CS and GD for

refreshments at meetings and events over the year – a role often overlooked. Reminded members about the Facebook page and website as places for information. Thanked ZF and SG for keeping both JK and HHA on course.

### **Treasurer's Report**

SG had provided copies of the report and accounts to members. Highlights drawn out included the improved deficit compared to last year, reduced due to the reintroduction of the £1 entrance fee (covers refreshments, hall hire and speaker); the success of parties, fetes, trips and shows held during the year; thanked everyone involved for making them a success; current membership is 64 with 8 life members; the Accounts had been audited by Sheila Blowers.

To accept the Accounts:

Proposer: CG

Secunder: Susie Dove (SD)

Membership fees to remain at £12 with Guest fee rising to £2.50 from January 2024

To accept these fees:

Proposer: Mandy Jackson (MJ)

Secunder: UF

Explained a card reader is currently prohibitive in terms of cost but slips with BACs details available should members wish to pay membership fees/trip costs that way; cash and cheque payments still welcome. Thanked everyone for an enjoyable club.

### **Election of Tellers**

Required for the vote on the Constitution. Noel Hardy and Gerry Dunton elected unanimously

### **Confirmation of President and Vice President(s)**

AB, LG and CG invited to re-stand which they agreed to do.

Proposer: SD

Secunder: Debbie Winter

## **Election of Committee**

Discussion around how to vote for the 8 members wishing to re-stand on the committee:

*en bloc* - Proposed by SG; Seconded by JM or  
position by position – Proposed by LG; Seconded by Freda Lane (FL)

A show of hands overwhelmingly supported the *en bloc* method.

For JK, SG, UF, JM, GD, NH, SK, CS to re-stand in current roles on the Committee

Vote - Unanimous

Self Nominations to join the Committee: Celia Dinsdale,

Vote - Unanimous

## **Review and Adoption of the HHA Constitution**

The first draft of the HHA Constitution has previously been provided as hard copies at members' meetings as well as on the website. JK provided notes for the AGM on the salient points. HHA has a list of rules yet a constitution enables the interpretation of said rules. The main premise being the safe- guarding and protection of members – to enable the club to thrive and be protected. Constitutions define what a club does and how it is done and are much needed for modern clubs. They include detailed explanations and are an expansion of the rules. The aim is to review annually at subsequent AGMs, with members feeding back thoughts/suggested changes etc to the committee to discuss at Committee Meetings with amended versions circulated (should it have been amended) prior to each AGM. A lively discussion ensued.

LG asked why a member has to put in writing to leave. SG explained the need for documentary evidence if required; how the rules are interpreted and expectations. We live in a litigious society. ZF pointed out the requirements of GDPR.

Any revisions already suggested will be taken on board. To accept the draft HHA Constitution:

Proposer: JK  
Secunder: MJ  
Vote – Unanimous

JK will keep members informed of updates/changes; clarified no lawyers needed to review the document.

**AOB**

HHA being a welcoming place - SK said Committee Members try to look out for new people and asked members to chat to new people/guests too.

The AGM was formally closed at 20:25

This was followed by refreshments, presentation of awards (separate list), the winners of the photographic competition and the raffle.