

RINGMER HORTICULTURAL & HOME PRODUCE CLUB

Minutes of AGM - Friday 10th November 2023

On behalf of our president Gordon Fowlie, Chris Browning greeted everyone attending, explained that Gordon was absent unwell and that he wished everyone a successful meeting.

Apologies for absence – Gordon Fowlie, Joan & David Miller

Any matters arising from the minutes of AGM held in November 2022 -

Members were able to view the minutes on the hall screen. There were no matters arising. The secretary was able to update the meeting about the revised flower arranging classes for summer 2024 and that because of lack of interest in the past year now trips will be planned for 2024.

Chairman's report & Chief Show Superintendent's report –

What an interesting challenge the weather has been to our gardening this year but isn't it lovely to see extra flushes of flowers brought on by this unexpected warm autumn sunshine?

Our spring and summer shows this year were full of impressive entries and more entries than in previous years, which is an indication that the club continues to thrive and grow. It was especially pleasing to have so many entries from children. The competition is for everyone, and I warmly encourage members who have never entered flowers or produce in the past to do so next year. The more who take part the more beautiful the display in the hall and the more pleasure for you and our visitors.

A huge thank you to the committee for their enthusiasm and commitment and all the work they do throughout the year to create these wonderful shows and thank you to all of you who supported us by entering and attending.

Wishing you all happy gardening and I look forward to seeing you at next year's shows.

Treasurer's report and approval of the 2022/23 financial statement. –

Copies of the financial statement were distributed for members to read. There were no questions from the floor about them. The motion to accept the statement was proposed by Debra Skeen and seconded by Wendy Hirsh. It was passed unanimously.

Appoint the auditor for coming year – There was no objection to continuing with the same auditor for the coming year.

Secretary comments - Attention was drawn to the note in the schedule informing members that oasis material will be banned in our shows from 2025. Members were

also asked to make sure that the club had a record of their up-to-date e-mail and mobile phone numbers.

Change of officers' titles in constitution - The secretary informed the meeting that there had been no changes to the club's constitution since it was re-written in 2016. The committee feel that it is necessary to make some changes to the roles of the officers at the club to reflect the club's changing needs. On the screen they were shown the old form of the Executive Committee roles and this proposed revision.

The Club shall be managed by an Executive Committee consisting of the following:-

Chairman	Secretary
Treasurer	Minutes Secretary
Communications Officer	Advertising Manager
Chief Show Superintendent	Show Secretary
2 Show Superintendents	

Together with up to 7 members of the Club

The motion to accept the revision was proposed by Kate Newman and seconded by Jan Browning. It was passed unanimously.

Appointment of Chairman - It was explained that Jan Browning was stepping down from the role of chairman because of other commitments that she has, but that she intends to stay on the committee and play a very active role in the spring and summer shows. On behalf of the committee, Nick Gillott proposed that Jay Kendall be nominated as the new club chairman. This was seconded by Ann Keeping and accepted by the meeting unanimously.

Reappointment of committee and officers - All members of the current committee were willing to re-stand for a further year. The meeting was shown the list as it appears in the 2024 schedule. The motion to continue with this committee was proposed by Jon Race, seconded by Chris Browning and accepted unanimously.

AOB - Des Watson reminded us about the Suttons Seed Discount Scheme that the club has joined. It gives members a chance to buy Suttons seeds at a 40% discount and other items at a lower discount. The company also donates some money to the club funds. At present only a few members are taking advantage of this valuable perk of club membership.

The meeting was closed at 7:51pm.

The raffle in aid of the British Legion raised £58.

Our guest speaker, Geoff Stonebanks of "Driftwood by Sea" garden in Seaford, then gave a talk about how he created his garden and how it has changed over time, so that it now attracts a great deal of media interest and visitors from around the world. By opening his garden to the public, Geoff has raised a great deal of money for charities both local and national.