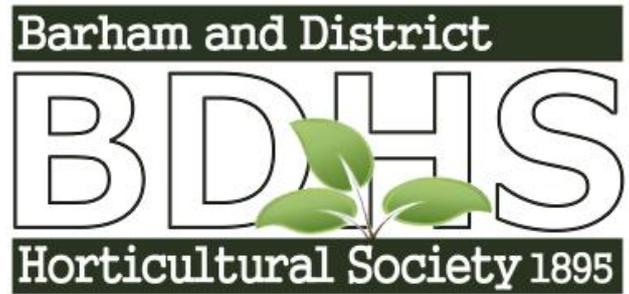


Barham & District Horticultural Society Draft Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 11th January 2017



PRESENT: BRIG. BRIG. M. ATHERTON (PRESIDENT), TIM BINES (CHAIRMAN), MRS. P AUSTIN (TREASURER), MR. B WRIGHT & MRS J. BORGIOLI (SHOW SECRETARIES), MRS J. TERRY (EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR), MR. A. CLOUGH, MR. J. CROTHALL, MRS. E. DALLISON, MRS. M. DUKE, Mrs. J. EVANS, AND SOME 60 MEMBERS.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6.30pm and welcomed the President, all officers and Horticultural Society members to the AGM. He explained that the short business meeting would be followed by refreshments and a quiz kindly organised by Mary Duke. The purpose of the AGM was to formally appoint officers and committee for the coming year, receive the financial report for the last year, outline the upcoming speakers and outings, seek comments and suggestions using the forms provided and to receive annual subscriptions from members. The papers available for those attending were the agenda, the draft minutes from the 2015 AGM, the financial report for this year and the 2016 Autumn Newsletter.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Mrs J. Stribbling.

2. President's Address

The President asked members to stand for a moment of silence to remember those who had died and in particular the recent death of our long standing member Mrs Jeanne Clark.

The President then asked for comments on the minutes of the previous AGM (2014/15) and none were made. The minutes were proposed for adoption by Alan Duke, seconded by Wendi Atherton and approved nem con. The President pointed out that the minutes were already on the society's web site and how pleased he was with its quality. He thanked the hard working Chairman, officers and the committee for all their work during the last year and noted that membership was healthy but there was always an opportunity to have more members, he also encouraged members to participate in the Shows and other events the Society organises. The past year had been well reported in the Autumn Newsletter and the ongoing activities were in the relevant Parish magazines, as well as the newly designed Show and Events Schedule. He thanked Andrew Clough for his good work on the seed order and noted that Jim Buttress was speaking on Wednesday 15th March and that there was an informal meeting for members in the Duke of Cumberland on 31st January.

3. Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Austin reported that the financial situation was sound and she explained the figures in this year's Financial Report. She pointed out that but that the total reserves of the Society had declined in the last year with deficit of £773 and invited members to comment or ask questions. There were no other questions and adoption of the report was proposed by Andrew Clough seconded by Malcolm Terry and approved nem.con.

The Chairman reported that the committee have considered the falling reserves that the Treasurer had reported which arise from a number of factors such as increased hire charges for the Village Hall, speakers costs, entry charges etc. To offset this and prevent any further decline the committee proposed that subscriptions should be raised by a modest amount in 2017 and onward - from £4 to £5 (individual membership) and from £6 to £8 (family membership). The Chairman asked for views from the members present. In discussion members agreed that the current subscription was low and accepted the need to raise it. It was suggested by members that we should consider raising funds in other ways too e.g. charging for talks. It was proposed that the subscription should be raised to £5 for individual membership and £10 for family membership. This was proposed by Mrs G. Mcguire, seconded by Richard Borthwick and carried nem.con.

4. Election of Officers and Committee

The President then took over the Chair for the appointment of officers.

I'm pleased to say that all our current officers have agreed to carry on for one more year. Tim Bines has again agreed to continue this year but looks to 2017 as his last year as Chairman and asks for any volunteer(s) to work with him over the year with a view to taking over in 2018.

He reported that our long serving treasurer Pat Austin will formally stand down at this meeting and Andrew Clough has kindly offered to stand in her stead as Treasurer. Pat has kept a very effective control over our accounts and worked hard to ensure we are clear about our finances for the last 15 years or so. We can only express our gratitude to Pat in the usual manner - what an achievement!

He also indicated that it had proved difficult to service our membership of the Barham Village Hall committee and your committee has decided that we don't need representation on the committee. He then sought to formally elect our officers and committee for 2017 and the proposal is as follows:

- Chairman - Tim Bines,
- Membership Sec - Liz Dallison,
- Events Organiser - Jill Terry,
- Press Secretary - Mary Duke,
- Treasurer - Andrew Clough,
- Show Secretaries – Brian Wright and Jan Borgioli,
- Webmaster - Tony Borgioli.

There were no volunteers from those present for any of the functions on the committee. The officers were proposed by Gaby McGuire, seconded by Alan Duke and approved nem con.

In addition the proposal was for three Committee members - Pat Austin, John Crothall, and Jane Forbes-Evans.

These were proposed by Gaby McGuire and seconded by Andrew Clough and approved nem con.

5. 2016 programme

Jill Terry (Events Co-ordinator) described the visits and talks that were programmed for 2017 and noted in particular the Jim Buttress talk in March, the April Plant Sale as well as the mini Summer Show to be held again in St John's Barham. In addition to the events listed in the Annual Programme there were ad hoc meetings in the Duke of Cumberland to discuss and exchange ideas and help. Visits this year were to Simpsons Vineyard and Winery in June and a guided tour of RHS Wisley in July.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm and members were invited to complete their suggestion forms, and enjoy the refreshments provided by the committee whilst participating in a quiz after which the raffle was drawn and a prize awarded for the most points in the quiz.