

BUXTED HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

Meeting held Thursday 9th March 2023 at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Buxted.
7 00 pm

PRESENT: Linda Churnside (Chair) (LC), Stephen Povey (Treasurer) (SP), Lisa Ayling (Membership/Show Secretary), (LA), Kirsten Brown (Secretary) (KB), Sheila Bartholomew (SB), Sarah Ferguson (SF), Doreen Forster (DF), John Forster (JF), Sue Pearson (Sue), Victoria Taberman-Pichler (VTP)

APOLOGIES: Karin Freer

AGENDA

Welcome by Chair following which:

1. Minutes of the Annual Meeting 2022 had previously been circulated to the Committee members and were available online or on request. There were no matters arising and the Minutes, having been agreed, were signed by Linda Churnside (LC) Chair.
2. **CHAIR'S REPORT:** In her Report (LC) Chair looked back over the past, post Covid year, which in her view had been a successful and wonderful one for Buxted Horticultural Society, which had been reformed during the pandemic. The Spring Talk given by local resident and garden designer, Mark Rogers, had been well supported and enjoyed by those attending, despite the fact that Mark had been forced to give his talk via Zoom, and was suffering with Covid himself. St Mary's Craft Fair in May had allowed the Society to raise its profile in the village with the Photography Competition proving popular. The Autumn Show had been well supported with an encouraging number of entries in all classes, including Photography. LC felt this augured well for the up and coming, Spring show. The Christmas Wreath Making session in December had run at a loss and another take on the Christmas theme would be looked at for 2023. LC thanked all members of the Committee for their input over the last year which had left the Society in a stronger position going forward. LC asked those present to reflect on the sad loss of Sue Nichols, who had generously provided her home as a venue for Committee Meetings and had proved a reliable supporter of BHS over the past couple of years. LC informed those present that as she herself had now returned to full-time employment, she would find the Office of Chair a stretch, and would further need to delegate if she was to remain in post. She enquired if anyone else was prepared to stand for election to the Office of Chair. There were no volunteers. The Chair's Report was approved by all those present.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT: In his Report Stephen Povey (SP) Treasurer referred to the Financial Statements 2022 – Comparatives 2020 to 2022

Financial Statements 2022 - Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet copies of which had been circulated to those present

Although membership subscriptions and donations had generated income of £104, the Surplus/Deficit of income over expenditure of £684 reflected the amount spent on development and hosting of the Website, together with equipment purchases such as the banners and SumUp Card Reader. Storage costs had however been covered by a grant from Buxted Parish Council which had been reapplied for, to cover the same in 2023. Transfer of funds from the NS&I account to the NatWest account in 2021, together with the transfer to revenue funds of the balance of the Lottery Grant received in 2021, showed Total Reserves of £6,402 as reflected in the Financial Statements.

In conclusion SP pointed out that the income generated from membership subscriptions was very small and that our aim should be to cover annual running costs at the very least. In his view it was therefore essential to raise more income by adopting different strategies to increase membership. This would give a more positive outlook to the future of BHS going forward.

There were no questions from those present.

LC proposed adoption of the Treasurer's Report, seconded by (KB) and approved by all those present.

4. ELECTION of:

Chair: Linda Churnside proposed Stephen Povey and seconded Lisa Ayling

Vice Chair: Office of Vice-Chair currently vacant and un-contested

Treasurer: Stephen Povey proposed Lisa Ayling and seconded Sheila Bartholomew

Auditor: (non-Society member) currently Malcom Noble. It was agreed that Vivienne Blandford, currently Chair of Buxted Parish Council, be approached with a view to auditing the account for 2023.

Secretary: Kirsten Brown proposed Linda Churnside and seconded Stephen Povey

Membership Secretary: Lisa Ayling informed the Committee that she was prepared to stand for re-election to this office, providing her duties could be further streamlined and delegated where appropriate. To be further discussed.

Proposed Kirsten Brown and seconded Sheila Bartholomew

Show Secretary: Lisa Ayling indicated that she would be willing to stand for re-election to this office, with the proviso that thought might be given to rotating the role among the Committee to reduce some of her workload. To be further discussed.

Proposed Sheila Bartholomew and seconded Kirsten Brown

Committee Members:

Sheila Bartholomew: SB informed those present that it had not been her intention to stand for re-election to the Committee. However, having heard the aforementioned discussion, and with the proviso that the Committee be mindful of the need to keep things on an official level, by submitting any expenses where generated, so that the end of year Financial Statement further reflected the actual running costs and Surplus (Deficit) of income over expenditure in future, she would agree to stand for re-election in 2023.

Susan Pearson: SP agreed to stand for re-election in 2023

Committee Members currently vacant: the following agreed to stand for election

Sarah Ferguson

Karin Freer (in absentia)

Victoria Taberman-Pichler

Linda Churnside proposed the election of all those willing to stand for election/re-election en-bloc, seconded by Sheila Bartholomew

5. Proposal to keep Annual Membership Fee at £4 single, £5.00 for couples. It was agreed that these fees should be retained for 2023, for residents of Buxted and immediately surrounding areas. Events, such as possible trips, might be subsidised and entry to BHS Shows free for members.

6. Plans for This Year:

Spring Show – Saturday 1st April from 2 15 to 4 45 pm. Discussion followed on the need to circulate more leaflets, and which company to use. LA agreed to order. SB emphasised the need to provide a partial paper copy of entry forms for this and any future show, with ideas of how this might be added further discussed. All agreed Show schedule for the Autumn Show should be available for the Spring Show, together with paper entry form if at all possible, bearing in mind the relatively short time before the latter. Date for Autumn Show needed to be chosen as soon as possible.

St Mary's Craft Fair - Saturday 20th May from 12 00 to 6 00 pm. BHS was due to have an outside stall. To be discussed at next Committee Meeting. KB to collect their leaflets for display at the Spring show.

Christmas Flower Arranging Workshop, instead of Wreath Making as previously. Possible Quiz along the lines of the Framfield and Blackboys HS Quiz, possibly hosted by Terry Everitt.

7. Any Other Business:

John Forster tabled a question asking how many members BHS had currently. (LA) replied that once outstanding subscriptions were received this should total 30 paid up members with approximately 90 on the mailing list.

There being no further business and the Annual General Meeting 2023 closed at 8 50 pm.

Please note:

Date of next ordinary Committee Meeting altered to Thursday 23rd March 4 00 to 5 30 pm at Acorn House, High Street, Buxted TN22 4JU