

# CRAWLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

## Minutes of the 72nd Annual General Meeting of Crawley Horticultural Society held on Thursday 27th February 2025

The meeting was attended by 21 members

Ron Spraget welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to sign the sign-in sheet before they left.

### **1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from June Thwaites, Ted and Sheila Lyons, Sue Whitehead, John Trussell, Eileen Chappell, David Roskilly, Tim Start, Carol McMannan

### **2 Minutes**

President asked if members would like to have the minutes read out or could they be "Taken as read".

Minutes of the 71st Annual General Meeting approved by those present.

### **3 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes presented.

### **4 Secretary's Report**

Jeannette Allen said

Thank you all for coming and continuing to support the society. Special thanks to all the committee members and the shop helpers together with their long-suffering families for their help and support.

Committee members and volunteers have worked very hard to ensure that the society continues. We have two new committee members this year – Sarah Crouch and Carl McMannan. However – two committee members are standing down.

At the end of 2024 we had 1036 members – this includes 205 life members and 6 hon life members.

Discussions with CBC about the extension to our lease will commence in June/July 2025. We have been assured that an extension will be forthcoming – 20 years – but rents are to be negotiated. Discretionary fund relief may be an issue – this is being discussed by CBC.

Our charities - St Catherine's Hospice, McMillan Cancer Support and Open House have all benefitted from our efforts this year and thank you letters are displayed in the shop.

Building repairs following damage to the building caused by a vehicle reversing into the wall are being pursued through our insurers. The necessary quotes have been obtained and submitted and CBC contacted about closure of some of the car park while building work is in progress. We will keep you updated on progress.

Bill Gunning and Derek Mountain, founder members, died last year.

Next year's AGM will be on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

### **5 Treasurer's Report**

Mark Hackwell presented the accounts reporting a successful year. Hall hire and Sales are up. 2023/2024 accounts are with our independent examiners – cost £400 per annum.

## **Election of President and Deputy President**

Barry Morton, Chairman said – I am pleased to say that Ron Spraget and John Green are prepared to continue as President and Vice President and asked for a proposer and seconder.

Proposed Peter Temple Smith                      Secoded Pam Reed

Duly elected

## **6 Election of Officers and Committee**

President said “I am pleased to say that the Management Committee are prepared to stand for another year, so I would like to first ask for proposers and seconds for the Management Committee to be voted for en bloc”.

Chairman	Barry Morton
Vice Chairman	John Green
Treasurer	Mark Hackwell
Secretary	Jeannette Allen
Membership Secretary	Graham Jones
Trading Secretary	Helen Partridge (Show Secretary)

Proposed Jan Patterson    Secoded Ann Frost

Duly elected en bloc

The Secretary reported the current committee members for re-election are:

Caroline Morton, Pam Reed, Tim Start, Angela Brown, Sarah Crouch ad Carol McMannan

Proposed Helen Partridge                      Secoded Jeremy Peck

All duly elected en bloc

Ron Spraget, our President said “if there is anyone here tonight who thinks they would like to serve on the Committee – please speak to us at the end of the AGM and we will explain what is involved”.

## **7 Election of Auditors/Independent Examiner**

The Treasurer informed the meeting that the Independent Examiner had the 2023 and 2024 accounts and would report back.

## **8 Membership Fees**

Treasurer says “the committee had scrutinized the accounts and considering the likely rise in rents when the lease is renewed it was felt that membership fees should increase to £7 from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026. This was agreed by the management committee.”

Proposed Anne Borland    Secoded Alan Drummond                      Unanimously agreed

## 9 President's Address

Ron said

"Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

Well, another year has gone and, on the whole, it has been a good one for the Society.

Every year I worry about how long it will last. Those who run it are getting older and with age comes health problems, so it doesn't get any easier.

I know from personal experience, due to my wife's health, I haven't been able to devote as much time here as I should have liked, and I know this applies to other members of the committee.

So, I think we should all be grateful for the wonderful job they do in managing the club so successfully. Especially when some idiot decides to reverse his car into the corner of our building causing considerable damage and creating opening problems over the past year.

On another sad note, I must report the passing of another founder member – Mr Derek Mountain. Those with a good memory will know that Derek started our trading way back in the 1950's selling goods from his own garage in Langley Green. He also wrote a book on the first 40 years of the society. He was a good friend and will be missed by all who knew him. Rest in peace Derek.

I will close by thanking you all for your support and wish you another successful year in the garden.

## 10 Any Other Business

**Hon Life Membership** The president presented a certificate for Honorary Life Membership to Caroline Morton in recognition of all her hard work.

**Thanks** – to Pauline Chiapori for all her hard work over the year.

Items raised but not on the Agenda:

**Volunteers** – We are looking to recruit volunteers for both the shop and the yard. Please speak to one of your committee members.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm – members were reminded that refreshments were available following the meeting.