

Purley Horticultural Society



Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting held in

Purley Memorial Hall on

Wednesday 19th February 2025 at 7.45pm

Present: Andy Hodgson (Chair), Tom Gallagher, Margaret Rolfe and 16 members.

- 1. Welcome:** Andy Hodgson welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.
- 2. Apologies:** Mrs S Stevens Wood, Mrs P Brightwell, Mr & Mrs R Mortlock, Mr & Mrs R Croker, Mrs H Griffiths, Mrs C Guest, Mr M Scott
- 3. Minutes of the 46th AGM:** were agreed and signed by the Chair
- 4. Matters Arising:** none
- 5. Chairman's Report:** Andy reported a reasonable year with two enjoyable shows with good attendances despite poor weather. The late Summer Show was joined by the Purley Sustainability Group with lunch outside. There were three talks which were well received. The Chairman was asked two questions. The first concerned previous Summer Shows when the speaker remembered tables and chairs in the Nicholls Room for those having tea & coffee. Since the WI have their crafts exhibitions there, there is not much room. Sometimes tables could be moved perhaps later in the show. The point was noted. The second question was about parking issues with the increased numbers in attendance when the Purley Sustainability Group joined. However, there was a lot of feeling that this meant a larger community event, which was welcome. We will encourage those who can to leave cars at home.
- 6. Treasurer's Report:** Everyone had a copy of the accounts which Tom pointed out were not yet audited, but a suitable person has now agreed to carry out the audit. An email will be sent out to the members when this is complete. Tom went through the report, indicating that the change in membership fees increased income, but that purchases in the trading store were down. Speakers' fees varied, but some honorariums were waived. We have purchased a de-humidifier to ease the damp problem in the store and further electricity costs are anticipated. The state of the roof and gutter will be investigated further. The year ended with a slight surplus of £10.89. Tom will continue to investigate how we can reduce bank charges.
- 7. Trading Store Report:** In line with falling membership, the trading store turnover was down. Andy is managing the current stock and will keep prices at current rates while stocks last. Then he will order new stock. The trading store will be open on Saturday mornings throughout the season and also on Wednesday evenings, 5pm – 6pm between April and June. Andy has set up a Facebook page (PHS Gardening Club) where he hopes to be able to show when goods are available. He said that he could order additional specific items on request. Bulbs have been bought, and sold out, for the Chairman's Challenge at the Spring Show.
- 8. Membership:** Margaret reported that we have new members comprising of partners of existing members in addition to new people joining. There are now 145 members, down 4 from last year, so a slowing in the decline. Some discussion followed about advertising; currently new allotment

holders are given a flyer by Colin Moses, the Parish Council's Amenities Officer and posters placed on notice boards about the village. It was suggested that Colin be asked to also send out a flyer with allotment rent reminders. Margaret thanked all the volunteers who manned the trading store.

9. Election of officers and executive Committee: Sadly, we lost Mag Dray during the year, a great loss to the committee. Two or three new people are needed for the committee, so anyone who feels they can join should please speak to a current committee member. Without a committee, the society will not be able to continue. All the current committee members have offered to continue in their current roles and were elected in a single vote.

Proposed by Wendy Chapman, seconded by Lucy Gallagher, unanimously passed.

11. Future Programme: Andy gave an outline of events planned for the next 12 months. The details of the three talks will be on the website. The shows will take place on 29th March and 6th September.

12. AOB: As covered above a member mentioned the parking issues at the Late Summer show.

Date of next AGM – 18th February 2026

Meeting closed at 20.25

Minutes taken by Lucy Gallagher