

# Purley Horticultural Society



Minutes of the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at Purley Memorial Hall

## Present:

Chairman and Trading Secretary:	Paul Humphreys
Treasurer:	Wendy Chapman
Membership Secretary:	Margaret Rolfe
Members present	15 including the rest of the committee

## 1. Welcome

Paul Humphreys welcomed everyone to the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, thanked them for attending on a very windy evening and said how good it was to meet face to face.

**2. Apologies for absence:** John Dimmock, Caroline and John Nash, Nancy Massie, Christine Croker, Andrew Hodgson, Johanna Griffiths

**3. Minutes of the 43rd AGM were approved and signed**

**4. Matters arising – there were no matters arising**

## 5. Chairman's report 2021: Paul Humphreys

The chairman welcomed those attending the meeting; last year's AGM last year had been held via Zoom but in 2022 we can meet in person again. Many events in 2021 were interrupted by the ongoing pandemic.

- The first talk of the year (March) and the Spring Show (April) had to be cancelled; a virtual spring show was set up instead of the actual show, for which Margaret Rolfe and all the participants were thanked for the work involved and the quality of the flowers and photos.
- The late summer show went ahead, all participants were thanked, and the winners congratulated.
- The first talk of the winter season was a talk in October by Kevin Little on the History of Smelly Alley (Union Street) Reading. Despite the problems he had with his computer it turned out to be a very entertaining talk.
- The second talk was Seasonal Container Gardening with Andrew Babicz, and we came away with some good ideas for our pots.
- The Christmas social was cancelled due to rising numbers of covid. We all hope that 2022 will be a better year.

## 6. Treasurer's report for 2021: Wendy Chapman

**Income:** As in 2020, there was a deficit balance in 2021, the amount was £721.86. The Trading Shed was only able to open on Saturdays from March to October (not from Feb as usual), as there were insufficient volunteers for both weekend days. Thanks go to Paul Humphreys for opening on Wednesday evenings from April to June, raising £742. Income was raised from the meetings and the late summer show, through raffles, refreshments and donations. Income from membership fees was reduced as paid-up members in 2020 were not charged a membership fee in 2021. Some members did nevertheless pay, and that was noted as a donation.

**Expenditure:** The trading year ended in October 2021 with quite a lot of stock held in the Trading Shed. Costs comprise stock, hall hire, administration, rent, electricity, insurance, RHS affiliation and the RHS reduced entry card. On the plus side for the 4<sup>th</sup> year running PHS was granted 100% Discretionary Rate Relief from West Berks Council

**Summary:** As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, the PHS had funds of £6,509.93 :

Cash in hand:	£ 329.22
Cash in bank:	£ 5378.21
HSBC savings account:	£ 802.50

The Nationwide Building Society account was closed and £3430.29 transferred into the Current account. The Treasurer thanked the members who continued to support PHS by purchasing gardening products from the Trading Shed during the year, the volunteers who man the Trading Shed each weekend and Mag Dray for dealing with the weekly cash tins.

2022 will be the last year in which Wendy Chapman stands as Treasurer; after 18 years she has given notice to the committee that she will stand down on Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, after closing the year's accounts ready for the AGM in 2023.

Under the rules of its constitution PHS cannot function without a treasurer, members are asked to tell the committee if they or someone they know would be prepared to take on the post.

## 7. Trading Store report: Paul Humphreys

Trading fluctuated in 2021. We were unable to open the trading shed until March for face-to-face purchases, but offered a click and collect style service in February and Andy Hodgson organised a delivery service for those folk unable to visit the

store. Many thanks to Andy. Wednesday evening trading was very worthwhile. Many thanks to all members who used the trading shed.

For 2022, there have been many price increases. The stock of reduced peat and peat-free compost has increased; this has quite a high price, but will become essential under the government phaseout of peat-based compost.

Mr Humphreys thanked all the volunteers who work in the Trading Store, and Graham Chapman and the other helpers who unload the lorry on delivery days.

#### **8. Membership Report:** Margaret Rolfe

- In 2021 there were 165 paid members including 7 new members; 48 members have not re-joined since 2019 and 34 members who had joined in 2020 failed to collect their cards in 2021, despite no fee being due.
- The 2019 membership data base still stands but any members not re-joining in 2022 will be removed.
- There has been a large drop in membership over the years, in 2003 there were 383 members, more than twice the current total.
- Efforts to recruit new members are made through the Allotment manager and the Parish clerk is to be asked to tell allotment holders about PHS
- Margaret also manages the rota for the Trading Store and thanked the volunteers who come forward; if the Store is to re-open on a Sunday more volunteers are needed.

#### **9. Election of Officers and Executive Committee:**

The current committee has agreed to stand again, with the exception of Marion Dabbs.

Chairman:	Paul Humphreys
Treasurer:	Wendy Chapman
Membership Secretary:	Margaret Rolfe
Trading Secretary:	Paul Humphreys
Other Members	Andrew Hodgson, Margaret Dray, Suze Stevens-Wood

Proposed: John Wigmore; Seconded: Ralph Duncan. The committee was re-elected.

#### **10. Future of the Committee and the Society:**

The intention of this agenda item is to raise with members issues critical for the future of the Society. While a committee of 6 has been elected to serve for a further 12 months, the constitution specifies that the Executive Committee should consist of the 6 officers (President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Trading Secretary and Membership Secretary, Chairman of the Shows Committee, and four other members, a total of 11.

The PHS currently has no President since John Devine died, no Secretary (duties are shared by other committee members), Marion Dabbs has just stood down, and Paul Humphreys and Wendy Chapman have both decided to relinquish their respective roles of Trading Secretary and Treasurer at the end of 2022. Paul will remain as Chairman as long as he is able.

In Marion's absence we will also need new committee members to take over her roles with respect to publicity for PHS in local publications (Purley Parish news, local radio, etc.) and to take care of the refreshments at meetings and shows. Marion will be much missed but we wish her well.

Some committee members have health issues, others pressing family matters and there will be activities related to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

In summary, then, we need more members to come forward and join the committee as a matter of urgency to ensure that the key roles are filled by the start of 2023 if PHS is to continue to exist. Without more volunteers the trading shed is in jeopardy as is the future of PHS without a committee.

#### **11. Future programme**

- March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Timothy Walker – The subtle art and exact science of pruning
- April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, Spring flower show
- June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Queens Platinum Jubilee Plant a container competition and sunflower planting
- September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, Late summer show
- October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, THURSDAY Jim Buttress Britain in Bloom
- November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Graham Horn the restoration of the Kennet and Avon Canal
- December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, Christmas social
- February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, AGM

#### **12. Any other business**

Marion Dabbs was presented with flowers and a gift bag of tea coffee and biscuits in recognition of her many years of service to PHS. Paul thanked her warmly for all she has done for PHS

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

MED 17/2/2022