

CUMNOR GARDENING CLUB
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Monday 6th March 2023
at the Village Hall, Leys Road, Cumnor

The meeting held a short silence in memory of the Club's late President, Henry Prince, who died peacefully at home on 18(?) February. His funeral would take place at South Oxfordshire Crematorium on Thursday 16th March at 2pm

1. **Apologies for absence** received from Jean Mirfield, Roy Darnell, Brenda Darnell, Howard Minns, Janet, Minns, Charles Moorley, Geoff Goodall, Jean Goodall, James Hutton.

2. **Minutes of AGM** held on Monday 7th March 2022 had been circulated and **were accepted unanimously** with 1 abstention

3. **Treasurer's Report**

A copy of the accounts had been circulated by email four days before the meeting and copies were available at the meeting. The Accounts showed a balance of £ 4,575.96 (£4,743.27 in 2021/22). Neil Whiting reported that the events deficit was less than the previous year and thanked members for their attendance. Although the balance was less than the previous year the Executive Committee was proposing to hold the level of the subscription at the current level of £5 per person for 2023/24.

However, the Executive Committee wished to give early notice of its intention to increase the level of the subscription to £10 per person from 2024/25 onward in order to cover anticipated increases in costs particularly for good speakers and also to prevent the level of Club reserves falling too low.

He thanked those who pay their subscriptions by bank transfer for clearly identifying themselves as the payers and asked all members to inform Mary Gregory of payment (by dropping her an email).

The Accounts for 2022/23 were accepted.

4. **Membership Secretary's Report**

Mary Gregory confirmed that Club membership was very stable and currently stood at approximately 180. She thanked those who had paid their subscriptions. This would remain at £5 per person for 2023/24 and reminded members that they could pay for future years in advance at this year's rate.

The report was accepted.

5. **Acting Secretary's Report**

Chris Impey confirmed that the Executive Committee had met three times in May and October 2022 and January 2023. He reminded members that the Club had not had a Secretary for the past year and that Chris Scruby as Chairman had taken on much of the work with the assistance of other members of the Executive Committee. He emphasised the importance of having a dedicated Secretary to ensure the well running of the Club and repeated previous requests for someone to come forward to offer take on the role of Secretary.

He reported that the Executive Committee had co-opted Helen Ward to join the Committee in January bringing its numbers up to 10 and that it was the Chairman's intention to step down at the end on the current year 2023/24. Accordingly there would be a vacancy to fill for 2024/25 and onwards.

The report was accepted.

6. **Chairman's report**

Chris Scruby's report had been circulated previously. He emphasised that the Club had had another successful year. All events had been well attended, generating a good spirit and enjoyable friendship groups. He thanked the Executive Committee for all their work and all those who

volunteered to help at events. Without their help it would not be possible to run such a comprehensive programme so successfully.

The report was accepted.

7. Election of Officers and Committee for the forthcoming year

Past Chairman James Bretherton proposed from the floor that Chris Scruby should be elected as Chairman for the coming year. This was seconded by Helen Ward and **agreed unanimously**. Chris Scruby, as Chairman, then proposed the following members to serve on the Executive Committee in the coming year, seconded by Sheila Slater, and **agreed unanimously**:

Chairman	Chris Scruby
Secretary	<i>post vacant</i>
Treasurer	Neil
Whiting	
Membership Secretary	Mary Gregory
Outings	Russell Ansell & Jane Annett
Shows Organisers	Chris Impey & Sally Strang
Social Secretary	Penny Guy
Tours	Edda Smith
Member	Helen Ward

The Chairman confirmed that there would be a review of the Club's current Trustees (Neil Whiting, Chris Impey and Chris Scruby) to ensure that the governance of the Club as a Charity was up to date and effective.

8. Constitution

Chris Scruby explained that the Executive Committee had reviewed the Constitution and that a draft showing proposed changes had been circulated. The changes were designed to update a number of out-of-date provisions and processes, include some flexibility where appropriate, and add a minor extension to the Club's objectives in line with its original objectives and the provisions of recent Charities legislation. Chris Scruby seconded by James Bretherton proposed that the changes be adopted.

In response to a question Chris Scruby confirmed that the Club's Charity number was printed on the Membership Card and on the Agenda for the AGM.

The proposed changes to the Constitution were agreed unanimously.

9. Programme for 2022/23

The programme of events for 2023/24 had been circulated. This included Spring and Autumn Shows, 3 outings, 3 socials with speakers, a five-day tour of gardens in Lincolnshire and the AGM with speaker. The programme of events is printed on the club membership cards. Chris Scruby encouraged members to take part in the forthcoming Spring Show on Saturday 15 April.

He confirmed that Club members continued to enjoy discounts at various local garden centres, details of which are on the Club website. He also explained that as a result of the Club's affiliation to the RHS, the latter had provide a Discount Card giving 50% off the cost of entry to any RHS garden for up to two members at a time. Mary Gregory, the Membership Secretary would look after this and Club members could borrow the card for individual visits.

10. Any other business

None

Chris Impey (Acting Secretary) 13/03/2023