**THE ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY HAMPSHIRE GROUP**

Minutes of the ‘Virtual’ Annual General Meeting – Papers Distributed by Email

17 June 2020

For the benefit of the of the minutes, 64 email recipients (76%) opened and reviewed the circulated documents and sufficient responded to ensure all required ‘proposals’ and ‘seconded’ motions were passed, thus ensuring the virtual meeting was quorate. On the basis that there were no queries raised or members voting against any of the motions, it is considered all were passed unanimously.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

There were no specific apologies for absence as the meeting was held ‘virtually’ in view of the Coronavirus pandemic.

1. **Minutes of the AGM held on 26 September 2019**

The Minutes of the last AGM held on the 26 September 2019 were approved by all responding to the email distribution and proposed by Gill Sawyer and seconded by Becky Getgood.

1. **Matters Arising from last AGM minutes**

There were no matters arising.

1. **Chairman's Report**

Last year it was Brexit that delayed our AGM and this year it is something of much greater concern to groups like ours, Coronavirus. We live in strange times and who knows when we will return to something close to ‘normal’. However, from our perspective our Financial year and AGM year to 31 March were very nearly completed before lockdown, missing just our March meeting and competition night so we can look back on another successful year.

As a Group we have been touched by Corvid 19, as many of you will have read in our messages and Facebook posts, Martin Sheader was very seriously ill with the virus but I am delighted to announce that he has been moved to a general ward from intensive care to continue his recovery. It will be a long haul and involve much physiotherapy; we send him all our very best wishes.

I would like to express my gratitude for the support I have received this year but in particular the committee members and others, without whom our meetings and other activities would not function. Your committee, (Angela, Steve, Dave, Jo, Dorothy, Malcolm, and Ben) have worked hard to ensure the Group continues to function well and will be testing out ‘Zoom’ or suchlike for our next committee meeting. Indeed the functioning of the AGS nationally has largely moved to a virtual basis, more on this later.

I would like to also thank all those who help run the Group during the year, with plant sales at meetings and all members who donate plants for sale. I am grateful to Janice for producing our newsletters and thank you to all the newsletter contributors. I would also like to recognise and thank Jackie and Mike for providing our refreshments and those who have helped with the raffle, too numerous to mention and those who kindly contribute raffle prizes. Thanks to Jo, Ange and Glenda for their assistance on the front desk at Group meetings. This year we were treated to a lovely evening’s entertainment at Rosalind and Harvey Rutt’s home for our Christmas event, stepping into the breach to help us out, thank you. To everyone else who helps prepare the hall and tidy up at the end of the meetings, we couldn’t do without you either, thank you.

This year the ‘Social Media’ (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) activities of Hampshire Group continue to attach worldwide interest and indeed during the current lockdown Social Media has become a great way of staying in touch and it has been good to see new names viewing and posting. If you haven’t looked at our social media pages, please try it out, you will be surprised at the interesting discussion and photographs posted.

We were pleased to open our garden for snowdrops in the early spring but saddened that later openings were just not possible in the circumstances.

I hope you enjoyed our programme of events and speakers. It is gratifying to see attendance at meetings has been maintained at over 40 at each meeting and averaging nearly 47, so I thank you for your support.

Next season will be different and the way forward in the short term is currently under consideration. I have been experiencing a number of interesting events via Facebook, U-tube, Zoom and the internet more generally some of which are being hosted by the new Head Office team at Pershore; I even noticed some of our members contributing to a talk/discussion by Ian Young (Caroline and Terry!). We are looking to inviting speakers via ‘Zoom’ and I know this will sound quite alien to some but we are doing all we can to maintain a momentum within the Group until there is more certainty surrounding the virus. Over the next few months we will continue to canvas opinion and maintain contact with you and I know that Janice will be issuing the September Newsletter as normal. In the spring we hope to open the garden, even if to smaller numbers over a greater number of days.

I am proud to be your Chairman, particularly at this difficult time and would like to thank you all for the continued support of the Group until we can again meet as we have traditionally done.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

This year I report a surplus in Group funds of £210. This is slightly up on last year although both income and expenditure are lower.

The largest fall in income, over £300, was due to open garden events being curtailed due to Coronavirus and subs are down due to a number of folk not renewing for various reasons consistent with our demographic. However, with expenses being tightly controlled and no capital expenditure this year, the finances of the group remain sound.

Despite the comment above, our membership has remained solid with 74 paid up members and at least seven others who have kept in touch but just not managed to get to meetings. Visitor numbers were up and average numbers attending meetings increasing again to 47.

We are grateful to all those who directly help our fundraising efforts who Paddy has already mentioned in her report. Lastly, the bulk of the fundraising is from within the membership so thanks to everyone for maintaining the financial health of the Group through your support of our activities.

These are draft accounts at this stage but will be audited once ‘social distancing’ allows and reported to the membership. **N.B. the accounts were audited and confirmed unchanged on 28June 2020 following receipt of an email from David Mussell.**

I am grateful to David for assisting us with the audit again this year.

The Treasurer’s Report was proposed by Victor Humphrey, seconded by Lynsey Pink and approved by all responding to the email distribution.

1. **Election of Officers**

All Officers and remaining members of the committee agreed to serve for a further year.

The Officers and Committee Paddy Parmee, Chairman; Malcolm Calvert, Vice-chairman; Ben Parmee, Secretary and Treasurer; and Committee Members, David Hanslow; Angela and Steve Lobley; Dorothy Searle; and Jo Whitfield, were proposed en bloc by John Pink, seconded by Elizabeth Wells and approved by all responding to the email distribution.

1. **Any Other Business**

There was no further business as no prior questions had been submitted nor subsequently received.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

To be confirmed.