**THE ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY HAMPSHIRE GROUP**

Minutes of the ‘Virtual’ Annual General Meeting – 13 May 2021 via Zoom

1. **Apologies for Absence**

David and Christine Hughes, Becky Getgood, Jo Whitfield and John and Lynsey Pink.

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

The Minutes of the last AGM held on the 17 June 2020 were approved by the meeting, proposed by Angela Lobley and seconded by Malcolm Calvert.

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

There were no matters arising.

1. **Chairman's Report**

First, I would like to say a big thank you for all the support we’ve had throughout this turbulent year or more.

How we’ve gone between not knowing where the groups would be, to now having had a very successful term of zoom meetings.

I’d like to say a big thank-you to Ben who’s worked tirelessly behind the scenes organising everyone keeping us all together, even me with my health issues, making zoom work for the group and so much more.

April was filled with hope being able to meet in the garden again, seeing friends & colleagues. The weather was kind to us throughout the plant sale, it’s been a great success so again thanks to all that supported it, being giving of plants or buying them.

Here’s to a brighter future, not sure how it will be yet but there is hope.

I’ve decided after 7 years in the chair to step down, but I’m not going anywhere, I’m still going to be there for the group, just not at the front for now.

So thank you again for every one of you who’s worked so hard & tirelessly in these very difficult time's.

1. **Secretary’s Report**

The Group Secretary’s Report is designed to summarise the Group’s activities during the year and whilst the Treasurer’s report covers our financial year from 1 Apr – 31 Mar, this report covers our more traditional season running from September through to the end of May.

Following the end of last season (March – May 2020) being curtailed due to the Coronavirus lockdown, I am delighted to report that we have managed to deliver a full programme in 2020-21, albeit with the assistance of Zoom, something that may well feature to some degree in the future.

The Zoom lectures have been arranged and shared with our neighbouring groups of Dorset and West Sussex; they have been advertised on the AGS website and have attracted guests from around the UK and the world.

A few statistics:

• Average numbers of Hampshire members and guests joining our zoom meetings to date have been 56 and this does not include Dorset and West Sussex only members.

• We estimate that our total audience for at least three of our meetings exceeded 100 persons with all others ranging between 50 and 90.

• 55 Hampshire members have joined one or more zoom lectures and there has been contact with a further 13 in one shape or form meaning that we have connected with at least 68 members.

With the exception of our National Show at Wimborne that we jointly run with the Dorset Group, which could not proceed for obvious reasons, Hampshire AGS has delivered its full programme of activities in 2020-21.

• By the end of May we will have had our full programme of lectures, out thanks to Paddy and Christine Hughes for arranging our speakers this year

• A Christmas quiz thanks to David Butcher

• Photographic and plant competitions organised online by Angela and Steve Lobley and judged by Jon Evans and Martin Sheader respectively, thanks to you all

• The competitions attracted more entries than in previous years at Chilworth Hall, 51 entries to the photographic competition and 46 in the plant competition

• Mentioned in the Treasurer’s report, a highly successful plant sale, thanks to all the donors and purchasers and Paddy for baking cake every other day during April!

At this stage we do not know exactly how next season will look but we will keep you all informed.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

This year, to 31 March, our financial affairs have been minimal, incurring speaker fees of £325 and administration costs of £29. These costs have been covered from reserves as the Committee decided not to take subscriptions during COVID. However, profits from our very successful plant sale will more than cover this expenditure and will show in the 2021-22 accounts. Our thanks go particularly to Robin White and Stefan Rau for their provision of large numbers of plants for sale and respective generous donations. Thank you also to those other members who have donated plants for sale and made donations, thanks also to the many members who have bought plants.

The income raised and showing in the accounts are donations from our zoom meeting guests and Hampshire AGS members in respect of our fundraising activities to support the ongoing development project by Keith Wiley at his Wildside Garden and a nominal amount (50p) of Bank interest. This fundraising continues and will also show in our 2021-22 accounts. When the fundraising is completed, members will be advised how much was presented to Keith.

Our reserves remain healthy and we hope that something closer to normal service will resume when our new season commences in September.

My thanks to David Mussell who has again kindly audited our books.

The Treasurer’s Report was proposed by Alison Fitzgerald, seconded by Caroline Seymour and approved by the meeting.

1. **Election of Officers**

Paddy has decided to stand down as Chairman after seven years in the role. Malcolm Calvert has been put forward to and agreed to take on the role as Chairman. Malcolm was proposed by Janice Bennetts and seconded by Mike Powell and approved by the meeting.

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

The Officers and Committee Paddy Parmee, Speaker Secretary; Ben Parmee, Secretary and Treasurer; and Committee Members, David Hanslow; Angela and Steve Lobley; Dorothy Searle; and Jo Whitfield, were proposed en bloc by David Mussell, seconded by Val Le May Neville-Parry and approved by the meeting.

1. **Incoming Chairman’s Comments**

Malcolm thanked the meeting on his election and offered his thanks to Paddy for making the Group what it is today with a vibrant agenda, healthy finances and strength in its membership. The committee has decided to make a presentation of a garden gift voucher to Paddy in recognition of her long service. Malcolm is looking forward to the role and hopes to continue and add to the success of the Group. Finally, Malcolm invited members who would like to join the committee to contact him; we are always looking for new talent to help run the Group.

1. **Use of zoom for Jan / Feb meetings**

A quick straw-poll was taken to understand the feeling of the membership present as to whether there was an appetite to have zoom meetings in January and February as they had been successful this year and that some members prefer not to drive on dark winter nights. A show of hands indicated approval of the idea which in due course will be discussed further by the committee and put to the full membership as it was noted by Caroline Seymour that not all were present.

1. **Any Other Business**

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 19.55.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

To be confirmed.