

LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12th NOVEMBER 2025 AT THE KING EDWARD HALL, LINDFIELD

- 1) Chairman, Richard Harding, opened the meeting by welcoming members. He went on to explain that our President, Neal McNamara, was sadly unable to attend due to the death of his wife, Nita. A minute's silence was held to remember Nita and others whom we have lost in the past year.
- 2) Minutes of the previous AGM were approved and signed, with the one amendment of the word "Outings" being replaced with "Talks" in item 10. (Proposed by Pat Whetstone and seconded by Sue Stockwell)
- 3) Matters Arising:
Item 6 – Richard explained that as our Talks continued to make a loss we would continue to charge both members and guests an entry fee of £2 and £4 respectively.
Item 8 – He advised that Carolyn Drew has moved from Minutes Secretary to the role of Talks Organiser.
- 4) Richard referred to his written Chairman's Report which accompanied the agenda, and expressed his thanks to each of the committee members by name. He added particular thanks to Pat Whetstone who is stepping down as Treasurer but will remain on the committee.
- 5) Secretary, Christine Cawley, summarised the extensive programme of events which had taken place during 2025, including the continuation of various workshops introduced the previous year. She also asked for volunteers to help at these events and for a new Minutes Secretary to replace Carolyn Drew.
- 6) Jim Stockwell presented the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 30th September 2025. He mentioned that once again this year a small overall profit has been made, although without the substantial donation received we would have made a loss.

In the light of this he suggested we increase the individual membership fee from £6 to £10 and the joint fee from £10 to £15 as from September 2026. This was proposed by Jacqui Essen, seconded by Debbie Anscombe, and was carried by a unanimous vote.

The accounts were adopted. (proposed by Gill Jones and seconded by David Crowther)

- 7) In Neal McNamara's absence, Christine Cawley introduced the election of Chairman, and as there were no other contenders for the post Richard Harding was re-elected to the role. (Proposed by Carolyn Drew and seconded by David Macmillan)
- 8) Election of Treasurer:
Richard introduced Natalie Lane and Tathiana Santana who have agreed to take on the role of Joint-Treasurers and they were duly elected (Proposed Pat Whetstone, seconded Gill Jones)
- 9) In addition to the change of Treasurer, Richard advised that Carolyn Drew had taken over from Wendy Dumbleton as Talks Organiser, leaving the role of Minutes Secretary vacant. Otherwise all officers were standing for re-election. The following were elected en bloc to the Committee for the coming year. (proposed by Jenny Harding and seconded by Debbie Anscombe):

Christine Cawley – Secretary
Clare Wilson – Show Secretary
Tim Richardson – Assistant Show Secretary/IT
Jacqui Essen – Membership Secretary
Jim Stockwell – Plant Sales Organiser
Anne Williamson – Catering Supervisor
Heather Hitchcock – Outings Organiser
Jenny Purdon – Publicity Organiser
Carolyn Drew – Talks Organiser
Chris Gurr
Pat Whetstone

- 10) Richard thanked Neal McNamara for his proactive involvement as President, and he was duly re-elected to the role. (Proposed by Sue Stockwell and seconded by Sheila Cheeseman)
- 11) Gordon Marples, was re-elected as Examiner. (Proposed by Anne Hall and seconded by Jacqui Essen)
- 12) Any Other Business:
Richard thanked Pat for her contribution not just as Treasurer but in her previous roles as Chairman, Secretary, Show Secretary and main organiser for many years (along with her daughter Debbie Anscombe) of our Christmas Social. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers.