

Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting held in Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley on Wednesday February 21st, 2024 at 7.45pm.

Present

Paul Humphreys, Andy Hodgson, Margaret Rolfe, Pat Taylor, Suze Stevens Wood, Margaret Dray and 36 members

1. Paul Humphreys welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Apologies:** Marian Dabbs, Richard and Christine Croker, Sally Woolhouse, Ray Lewis, Hanna Griffiths

3. **Election of Chairman:** Paul Humphreys is standing down at this meeting and Andy Hodgson has been elected as the new chairman by the committee.

Paul was thanked for all his years of service to PHS both as Chairman and Trading Secretary and he was presented with a gift in recognition of all his service to the society. He has been invited to become President.

4. **Minutes of the 45th AGM** were agreed and were signed by the new Chairman

5. **Matter arising:** No matters arising

6. **Election of officers and the executive committee:**

President: Mr P Humphreys

Treasurer: Mr T Gallagher

Trading Secretary: Mr A Hodgson

Membership Secretary: Mrs M Rolfe

Other members: Miss M Dray, Mrs S Stevens Wood, Mrs P Taylor

The election of all was carried out as one transaction, proposed by Wendy Chapman and seconded by John Wigmore. The vote was unanimous.

There are vacancies on the committee and volunteers are welcome. Please contact any member of the committee.

7. **Chairman's report for 2023** - Paul Humphreys

In March 2023 we had a talk by member Peter Worsley on the geology of the Purley District, which was informative and entertaining. The Spring Show was held in April and although the weather was against us we had a very good display of daffodils and tulips. Pat Taylor organised a trip to Wisley in July, much enjoyed by all who went. In September the Late Summer Show was held on a very hot day; the exhibits were excellent. October's talk to start the Autumn/ Winter talks was very interesting, James Mather spoke about the Watlington Hoard and metal detectorists, alongside background history of the artefacts found. In November we heard from Andrew Halstead about pest recognition and control. There are some horrible pests! The Christmas social evening was held with mulled wine and a quiz prepared and shared by Suze. Many thanks to her for all the work involved in preparing both.

Paul is standing down as chairman after 15 years and he thanked the committee for all the support they had given. He handed control of the meeting to Andy who takes on the chairmanship.

8. Treasurer's report: Tom Gallagher

This is Tom's first year as treasurer. Income is down £307 (down 10%) on last year ; he encouraged every member to use the competitive prices for goods available in the trading shed.

Membership fees were down too, again by 10% , at £432. The increase in fees to £4 for each member and couples each to join in their own name from 2024 might see a turn around in income.

The trip to Wisley was always planned to break even, it was not a profit-making venture and broke even.

Overall the deficit is £706.99 again down on last year. Funds to 2024 stand at £7,179. Down on 2023.

There were no questions.

Many thanks to Tom for his work as treasurer.

9. Trading Store report: Andy Hodgson

Andy thanked Paul for the guidance he had given during his first year as Trading Secretary and urged members to buy their supplies from the Trading Store, where they would find prices competitive with commercial outlets. He noted that there had been a reduction in the cost of fertilisers and peat free compost; if there were other items members would like to see on sale in the store they should let him know and he would do his best to source them. PHS no longer has one main Horticultural supplier since Horticultural Supplies has ceased trading. It was noted that as the initial supply of seed catalogues had been exhausted, Margaret would order more.

Andy would also consider selling any spare plants members may have, and would continue to recycle garden pots. He encouraged every member to try to recruit at least one new person each to join PHS.

10. Membership report: Margaret Rolfe

2023 closed with 149 members. 38 did not rejoin but there were 23 new members. This number is well below half of the membership in 2001. The peak was 382. Please encourage folk to join. Many thanks to all who help run the trading shed each Saturday.

Discussion and suggestions followed about ways to promote PHS locally:

- Leaflet drop in new development on Purley Rise once occupied
- Piece in parish newsletter.
- Parish notice boards
- RG8 directory
- Websites
- Display programme at the Mad Duck Café
- Amenity officer at Parish office gives a leaflet to new allotment holders as does the allotment manager, Graham Chapman.

11. Future Programme:

March 20th Plants, borders and gardens by Timothy Walker

April 13th Spring Show - see membership card for more information for 2024

12. Any other business

Suze was presented with flowers for her work behind the scenes with quizzes and refreshments.