

Wellow and District Horticultural Society
Annual General Meeting
Thursday November 14 2024 at 7.30pm

Present - Liz Hunt, Pam Pike, Gail Balfour, Fiona Schubert, Louise Nicolas

President- Alex martin

Apologies- Janet Plater

Minutes- Gail Balfour

Approximately 14 members at the meeting.

1. Liz opens meeting and mentions that the society has been round for a long time.
Minutes of the last meeting 25 September 2024 Approved.

2. Report from Liz summarising what had been organised by the Hort Society in the last year. January a film- My thousand Bees, February Freshford Meadow in my Garden, March an excellent quiz organised by Pam, Bridget and the Plant Sale proceeds went to the Red Cross. Wordsworth Garden Party in June and of course the Flower show which was a great success.

3. Treasurers Report

Membership subs of £861 improved from £813 IN 2023

The Plant Sale proceeds were £395 donated to the Red Cross.

The Wellow Flower Show was a great success. Responsibilities were divided between the Hort Society and the Show Team. The Hort soc would like to thank the show team for putting together such a range of fantastic activities.

The Hort Soc transferred £1,514 to Wellow Rec to support the show this year and played no further role in its financing. In future years the Hort Soc will not take any financial responsibility for the Wellow Show.

It was decided to waive entry fees for the Flower Show this year. Entries were a bit lower than last year which was probably due to a poor -summer weather wise.

Funds- the level of funds held in the current and deposit accounts and cash amounts to £ 8,379. From this £250 is earmarked for some planting in Manor Close. An additional £3,000 is for developing a memorial garden at the church following a generous donation from Emma Rose. This leaves a healthy fund of £5,129 for the Hort Soc.

Aisling Hammerton proposes that you adopt the formal and final accounts for 2024.

Gordon Westwood will be auditing the accounts.

4. Alex- Election of New Committee. Alex said that there should be 12 members on the Committee. The Hort Society has never had 12 and now it is down to a minimum. Liz, Janet, Gail and Aisling wish to resign. Louise and Pam happy to stay.. Alex opened the floor to nominations but none volunteered .

Liz said it was crunch time.

There are 2 options 1. Go back to the membership to find more people and 2. Possibly lie fallow for a while. If people don't step the Hort Society wont exist. People were disappointed that it all may fizzle out.

Fiona discussed the Flower Showteam and stated that there were only 4 members which isn't enough. The resigning members of the committee were happy to help for certain activities in the future.

Discussion was open to the floor and someone asked if the Constitution could be changed.

Survey organised by Louise.

70% would like to see the Hort Society remain as it is.

60% favoured garden topics

60% disagreed and wanted more to do with the community

70% didn't agree with rewilding

Vegetable growing advice was popular and how to involve more children and families.

In summary it was felt that people really wanted an old fashion gardening club and everyone enjoyed the show.

Lots of discussion by the members but some irrelevant if the Hort Soc doesnt exist. Some people didn't like the name. Others wanted a Gardeners Question Time. No younger generation attended the meeting at all.

An idea to send information out to the Membership to see if people would step up to help the Hort Society to carry on.

Questions- Accountability- what will happen to the £5,000 .

Alex would be responsible for over seeing whatever happens next although three quarters of the membership would have to vote.

Hort Soc to arrange a meeting.

5. Alex then presented the cups and he has the definite list.

Decision to alert the membership to the current situation.

Crisps and then wine were enjoyed.