

BRIMPSFIELD & MID-COTSWOLD GARDEN SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

The Annual General Meeting of the Brimpsfield & Mid-Cotswold Garden Society was held on Saturday 1st April 2023 in Brimpsfield Village Hall at 11.45am. 43 members attended; apologies were received from six members.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 2022 AGM had been circulated in advance and copies were also made available at the meeting. They were approved as a true record of that meeting, as proposed by Angela Lerwill and seconded by David Ellery, by all members present.

Chairman's Report

Harvey Mattinson summarised the activities of the Society over the past year. Speakers had covered a variety of topics, and the programme for the coming year would continue this. He noted that speakers' costs had risen considerably, and this and other factors were placing considerable strain on the Society's finances, as the Treasurer was about to report.

Harvey expressed his thanks to the committee and to Jane Parsons and her team who had provided the lunch.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented his accounts for the past year, which showed a deficit of £924. This had been caused by a number of factors, particularly rising costs (of speakers and hall hire), one-off expenses such as the purchase of a projector and low receipts from the Garden Party. The Committee were therefore proposing to raise the membership subscription to cover the Society's costs for the coming year.

The Treasurer noted that, in addition, HSBC were now making a monthly charge for the Society's account, and also a charge for the use of cheques. Janet Gazzard suggested that the Society should move its accounts to Santander, who offered a better deal, but Martin Phillips had investigated this and replied that Santander's offer for new customers was no better than HSBC's. As no better arrangements were on offer elsewhere, he proposed to keep the Society's account with HSBC.

The Treasurer's report was unanimously approved by the meeting.

Subscription for 2023-24

The Committee proposed to raise subscriptions to £5 (individual) and £8 (couple), and to lower the Society's costs by reducing the amount of subsidies and offers (such as the free AGM lunch) to members. However there were proposals from the floor of the meeting that the subscription should be higher to cover the Society's ongoing costs. Accordingly the meeting voted on raising the subscription to £8 and £12 and this was passed by a considerable majority of those present.

Election of Committee

The existing Committee was standing for re-election with the exception of Michael McWilliam, who was standing down. The remaining members of the Committee, Judith Cheyney, Frances Ellery, Jan Evans, Harvey Mattinson, Jane Parsons, Martin Phillips and Jean Tippet, were unanimously elected by the meeting.

Election of Officers

Harvey Mattinson, Frances Ellery and Martin Phillips were standing for re-election as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer respectively, and the meeting unanimously re-elected them to those offices, and also approved the appointment of Keith Prentice as Honorary Examiner of the accounts.

Any other Business

There was no other business; the meeting closed at 12.23 and the members proceeded to lunch.