

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE COLWALL ORCHARD TRUST (known as Colwall Orchard Group)
HELD AT COLWALL VILLAGE GARDEN, OLD CHURCH ROAD, COLWALL
AT 19:00 ON THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2023**

In attendance: Lindsay Williams (Chair), Lynne Drew (General Secretary), Chris Kelly, Chiara Tirloni, Deb Turnbull, Chris Blake, Irene Blake, Claire Howell, Laurence Keil, Sue Keil, Peter Key, Clive Killick, Rod Lane, Helen Lane, Jilly Rosser, Jenny Papettas, Jane Healing, Les Rucinski, Gabrielle Rucinski, Julie Jennings, Alan Bunch, Susan Bond, Tim Dixon, Maria Allen, Jane Pountney, Janet Edwards, Lorna Megan, June Cutler.

The meeting was quorate with 28 people in attendance.

Proxy votes in support of motions were received from 19 members.
Apologies were received from 27 members.

1. Welcome

Lindsay Williams as Chair welcomed all to the meeting and the apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of the 12th AGM

Motion 1 was carried unanimously. The minutes of the AGM held on 22nd June 2022 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Chairman's report (Lindsay Williams)

Lindsay referenced the Annual Report which had been circulated to all members and he remarked on the great work that had been done by our wonderful volunteers. He stated how so much can be achieved with such good volunteers. He also extended thanks to the many people who have stepped up this year to help, with Lynne Drew taking on the role of General Secretary, Chris Kelly as Treasurer, Claire Howell as Membership Secretary, Sue Armstrong as Allotment Secretary and Jenny Papettas and Jilly Roser taking over the TOFI programme. He also thanked Jilly for training up a pruning team and Jenny planting 174 trees which is a great achievement.

Whilst other groups struggle to survive without key volunteers, COG's loyal volunteers really affect what we can achieve. Lindsay thanked all our active volunteers both new and longstanding.

5. Election to the Board of Directors

Motion 2 was carried unanimously. Pam McCarthy was re-elected to the board.

Motion 3 was carried unanimously. Wendy Thompson and Peter Key were thanked for their service as Trustees.

Motion 4 was carried unanimously. Chris Kelly was elected to the Board in the role of COT Treasurer.



6. COT Annual Report

Lindsay Williams referred to the report which had been circulated with the agenda and said that COG was currently in interesting times where money was available through grants for organisations like us. A number of grants are available through MHAONB and DEFRA for farmers and landowners to improve their land. There is hope that we have a good chance over the next few years to really change the landscape around us.

We have had a number of successful events this year such as the Wassail (coordinated by Bob Levy) and H.Art (coordinated by Kath Killick and Mhari Brown).

We are working closely with local schools. Jenny Papettas has been setting up an orchard school and we have had many more school visits.

7. Treasurer's Report (Chris Kelly)

Chris Kelly presented his report which had been circulated with the agenda. Chris stated that COT is in a very good financial position and is confidently considered to be a 'going concern'. Colwall Parish Council had made a donation of £1,000 to COG for which they were thanked.

Motion 5 was carried unanimously. The accounts for the year to 31st January 2023 presented were approved for reporting to Companies House and the Charity Commission.

8. Any Other Business

The following points were made:

- Claire Howell asked if there was a need to have both Single and Joint types of membership and proposed there should be just personal membership (as well as Life). It was pointed out that Joint membership was actually Joint/Family membership and this was still a necessary option for the Group to encourage families to join. Chris Kelly suggested that for Joint members they should receive two separate emails though.
- Lindsay Williams thanked Rod Lane for coming and for his support as Chair of the Parish Council.
- Rod Lane wished to express what an important part of the community COG is.
- Jenny Papettas thanked Lindsay Williams for his tremendous work and enthusiasm and expressed how he is really the heart of the Group.
- Tim Dixon thanked the rest of the Board as well for all their hard work.

9. Chairman's closing remarks

Lindsay thanked everyone for attending and for their support. He also wanted to encourage everyone to think about the way we are going with COG and what everyone would like to see it become in the future.

The meeting procedures ended at 19:35.