

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE FOURTEENTH 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 SATURDAY 20 APRIL 2024**

In attendance: Lindsay Williams (Chair), Chris Kelly (Treasurer), Lynne Drew (General Secretary), Jane Williams, Nic Drew, Alison Allden, Kevin White, Chris Blake, Irene Blake, Claire Howell, David Howell, Laurence Keil, Sue Keil, Peter Key, Clive Killick, Rod Lane, Helen Lane, Jenny Papettas, Jane Healing, Jane Pountney, Janet Parry, Lorna Megan, June Cutler, Paul Norman, Jenny Flemming, Patrick Flemming, Ian Perry, Caroline Gilderdale, Mike Hames, Tony Hedge, Anne Dodds, Maria Allen, Bella Johnson, Bob Levy, Mhari Brown, Krysia Lancucki, Andrew Spray, Helen Stace, Tim Dixon, Nicky Cox, Pam McCarthy, Alan Bridge.

The meeting was quorate with 41 members and 1 non-member in attendance.

Proxy votes in support of motions were received from 8 members.

Apologies were received from 22 members.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Lindsay Williams as Chair started the meeting at 7pm and the apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of the 13th AGM

Motion 1 (proposed by Lindsay Williams, seconded by Clive Killick) **was carried unanimously**. The minutes of the AGM held on 14 September 2023 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 Welcome (Lindsay Williams)

Lindsay Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting and displayed the previously circulated agenda on the screen.

5. Election to the Board of Directors

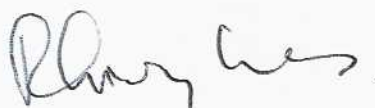
Motion 2 (proposed by Lindsay Williams, seconded by Chris Kelly) **was carried unanimously**. Jilly Rosser was re-elected to the Board.

Motion 3 (proposed by Lindsay Williams, seconded by Clive Killick) **was carried unanimously**. Chris Blake was re-elected to the Board.

6. COT Annual Report

Lindsay Williams presented the Annual Report and an accompanying slide presentation. The written report would be circulated following the meeting.

He began by recounting the two incidents of youths camping at the Colwall Village Garden and the damage caused. He thanked PC Jack Davies for all his work in apprehending some of the campers and explained the Community Resolution process that they have agreed to. Lindsay showed the letters of apologies that had been received and explained these would be available for anyone to read after the meeting.



Lindsay then explained that a small number of members had raised several minor complaints and this had left him feeling somewhat battered. He described the Board's desire to develop a positive culture at COG and invited anyone who might be feeling down or hearing negativity at COG to come forward to raise any issues with Jilly Rosser who has taken on the role of Complaints Officer.

We have had good year of events. Lindsay recounted the various events such as the Wassail, Apple Day and the Mistletoe Fair.

Lindsay remarked on the great contribution from all our volunteers this year. He extended thanks to those who have taken on roles at COG: Chris Kelly, Jenny Papettas, Jilly Rosser, Clive Killick, Chris Blake, Pam McCarthy, Lynne Drew, Jane Pountney, Jane Healing, Sue Armstrong, Claire Holwell.

He also reiterated that all members should feel that they can come along on Fridays even if they are unable to help in a physical capacity, they are welcome to participate socially for the coffee and cake.

Muddiest Volunteer was awarded to Rosie Fox with Maria Allen as Runner Up.

Lindsay then summarised some of the work that had been done this year: Over 200 trees planted, 21 orchards worked in, over 1300 trees pruned, removal of mistletoe, purchase of a pickup and a water bowser, mapping of the orchards and eating lots of cake. Special thanks were given to all the cake bakers.

Future projects that are planned include:
Building a veranda on the Apple Packing Shed, creating a new public footpath from Colwall Stone to the Gas Orchard, training young people in countryside skills. Lindsay reiterated that to complete these projects we will need more help from members.

Lindsay then spoke about our outreach. We work with several local organisations to improve the environment around Colwall. This includes The Downs School, The Elms School, Colwall CofE Primary School, Colwall Youth Project, Colwall Parish Council including the Hedge Survey, St James Church, Colwall Greener, Malvern Hills National Landscapes, Malvern Hills Trust. This year we will be hosting up to 50 educational visits and planting orchards at the three schools.

Lindsay concluded his report by expressing that COG was a robust group and he hoped everyone enjoyed being a part of it as we continue to make Colwall a better place.

7. Treasurer's Report (Chris Kelly)

Chris Kelly presented his report which had been circulated with the agenda. Chris explained that Colwall Orchard Trust (COT) is our legal name and Colwall Orchard Group (COG) is our working name. As we are registered with both the Charity Commission and Companies House, we have to produce and submit an annual narrative Trustees' report and (unaudited) accounts. Chris stated that COT is in a very healthy financial position and the Trustees consider ourselves to be a 'going concern'. We have benefited from several government grants over the last few years as detailed in the circulated report.

Motion 4 (proposed by Lindsay Williams, seconded by Peter Key) **was carried unanimously**. The accounts for the year to 31st January 2024 presented were approved for reporting to Companies House and the Charity Commission.

8. Any Other Business

Jane Healing raised a vote of thanks to Lindsay Williams and the rest of the Trustees for all the work they do for COG. All those present agreed.

9. Chairman's closing remarks

Lindsay thanked everyone for attending and for their support. He said it was a great group to be part of for the last three years and gave special thanks to all the volunteers. The meeting procedures ended at 7.35pm.