

**MINUTES OF THE NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE COLWALL ORCHARD TRUST (known as Colwall Orchard Group)
HELD IN COLWALL ALE HOUSE, MILL LANE, WR13 6HJ
ON WEDNESDAY 27th MARCH, 2019 AT 7.30pm**

The Chairman of Colwall Orchard Trust (COT), Tim Dixon, Chaired the meeting and welcomed 27 members.

1. Apologies for absence: Irene Blake, Mhari Brown, Jenni Cross, Carol Evans, Linda Hughes, Kath Killick, Krysia Lancucki, Bob Levy, Dwayne Martin, Adrian Mealing, Angela Nichols, Jonty Pearce, Andrew Spray, Susie Udall, Hilary and Keith Ward, John and Helen Willson

2. Adoption of the minutes of the eighth AGM held 28th March 2018

Motion 1 of the agenda to adopt the minutes was proposed by Tim Dixon, seconded by Wendy Thompson and carried unanimously.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman extended thanks to the Board of Trustees on behalf of members and thanked all volunteers. He acknowledged the importance of having good dedicated volunteers for practical work as well as for helping with events. He reported that in 2018/19 more volunteer days had taken place than in any previous year which had achieved a lot and had also been fun. He also drew attention to the wider group of members and supporters observing that Colwall Orchard Group (COG) would not be a success without the continued support of many people in Colwall and beyond who attend our events and purchase our jam and other produce.

The COT Board of Trustees had a range of responsibilities including business planning, governance and finance. The Chairman reported that the Estates Committee and Events Committee had been re-instated during the year and that these reported to the main Board. He noted that the Board was revamping its Business Plan and Strategy which would be presented on the website for member comments later in the year. He thanked Helen Stace for her work on Health and Safety policies and procedures. He gave special thanks to Peter Hughes for preparing COT accounts on time and with good humour and Wendy Thompson for efficiently keeping business in order and prompting when necessary.

The Chairman's highlights for the year were:

- Three Counties Traditional Orchard Project (TCTOP) - which had been a great success in spreading the word about traditional orchards and in inspiring new orchard champions including a new orchard group in Whitbourne. He personally had thoroughly enjoyed being involved;
- Luggs Mill – where COG had completed the planting of a new traditional orchard;
- Wassail – which had attracted the most people to date.

5. Election to the Board of Directors

Motion 2 of the agenda to re-elect three Directors retiring on rotation from the Board, namely Tim Dixon, Helen Stace and Wendy Thompson was carried unanimously.

6. COT Annual Report

Wendy Thompson presented the Annual Report which drew together information as a record to remind us of what we had achieved between April 2018 and March 2019. The report summarised what COG had done on its own sites, and on land owned by others as well as the events, the educational activities, the volunteer work and the advice and support which had been provided to others. She concluded that the year had been profitable, productive and enjoyable. The Annual Report had been placed on the COG website.

7. Treasurer's report

Peter Hughes presented the micro-entity accounts to 31st January 2019 copies of which were circulated to members at the meeting. He reported that debts had reduced and loans had nearly all been refunded. COG had been paid for work undertaken for the TCTOP which had increased the level of cash and a fund had been created for land purchase should an opportunity arise. The total income had been around £60,000 and expenses around £22,500.

The Chairman thanked members who had previously loaned money to COG for the purchase of Colwall Village Garden and also thanked members who had recently responded to say they would be willing to consider loaning money to COG in the future should the opportunity to purchase land arise.

8. Secretary's report

Wendy Thompson reported that the Board had met 4 times in the year with agendas covering a wide range of matters and with over 89% attendance rate by Trustees/Directors. She was in the process of collecting annual subscriptions which were due from 1st April. Total membership for 2018/19 had been 117 including 8 Life Members.

9. Any other business

The Board was asked to consider introducing a way of leaving legacies to COG.

10. Chairman's closing remarks

The Chairman reported the sad news of the death of Philly Hunt, who had been an active volunteer for COG. He informed the meeting that her family had requested that donations from her funeral and memorial art exhibition were to go to the COG. The Board is discussing how to use the funds raised in a way that Philly would have liked and to celebrate her life as an artist and environmentalist.

He also reported that with a grant from the Finnis Trust he had been able to send leaf samples from a range of Colwall traditional fruit trees for DNA testing and the results received were very interesting with several rare and unusual varieties identified. COG had grafted some of these varieties and hoped to be able to preserve them for the future.

He thanked all for coming to the meeting and announced the formal meeting was over. A showing of a short film of the TCTOP was presented after a short break.