**ELTHAM AND AVERY HILL GARDENS SOCIETY**

Website: [www.eahgs.org.uk](http://www.eahgs.org.uk)

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Time & Venue:** 7:30pm on31st March 2023 at Holy Trinity Church Hall

 **Item. AGM/23/1**: Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Graham Farrant. & Deirdre Hollingum

**Item. AGM/23/2:** Welcome & Minutes

Barbara Crowe (BC) welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the last meeting dated March 25th 2022 having been previously circulated to the membership were agreed and signed by BC.

**Item. AGM/23/3:** Matters Arising

Ref AGM/22/12/a There was no interest expressed in reinstating the annual society outing, however our members can participate in other horticultural societies outings that we are in contact with, and publicised in our newsletters.

There were no other matters arising.

**Item. AGM/23/4:** Treasurers Report

The treasures report was circulated (see appendix I) and generally our financial situation is a stable one. Trading remains our main source of income and this together with membership fees makes up nearly all of our income, but even the annual show made a small profit last year. Overall our balance is slightly up on last year.

It was mentioned that the assets of EAHGS include a sum of £2000 for our Trophies and that this sum had not changed for years, it was agreed that this was unrealistic, did not reflect the true value and potentially distorted the society’s accounts. It was agreed that our treasurer will write down the cost of the trophies in future annual accounts to reflect their true value, with the aim of eventually writing them off completely.

**Item. AGM/23/5:** Show Secretary’s Report

It was our 69th annual show and in spite of the drought we put on a very good show, the garden in a seed tray class went well.

There were 163 entries by 19 exhibitors which was down on last year but not as much as expected. Floral entries suffered particularly.

John King proposed a single potato challenge for the show this year, this was thought a good idea and there was some discussion on how this could work. Essentially using one variety of potato (second early) everyone entering would draw a single potato from a bag and grow it by any means, the resulting crop would be harvested on a specific day prior to the show and the winner would be the heaviest crop from the single potato.

It was noted that if we wish to proceed with this we have to act within the next few weeks (end of April latest) and publicising this with our membership will be key.

Finally this years show will take place on the 2nd of September and it will be our 70th

**Item. AGM/23/6:** Trading Officers Report

The shop opened at the beginning of February and Pat Middleton reported that this years seed potatoes are nearly all gone and the shop is stocking two new products, a plant based manure “**Natura Grow All Purpose Feed**” This will be sold by weight in small lots, also new is a “Soil Improver” there is not much else to report except to say that there is still no official date for going peat free although everybody is working towards it and 2024 is a probable end date, so this years supply of Rosedale will be the last

**Item. AGM/23/7:** Membership Secretary’s Report

Brian Greenwood reported that there are currently 110 paid up members of which 76 are senior and 34 ordinary members, almost exactly the same as last year. Everyone is encouraged to renew their membership at our annual show.

We are in the process of surveying our members in order to better understand our members interest in the society. There have been 40 replies so far and initial results indicate that we have 28 allotment plot holders of which 26 are at Pippenhall site and 2 at Parkview plus 12 replies indicated that their horticultural interests lie in the garden.

**Item. AGM/23/8:** Allotment Liaison Officer’s Report

Pat Middleton reported that currently there are 4 vacant plots and 69 on the Pippenhall Site waiting list and is showing two potential new plot holders around shortly. There are 13 plot holders who still have to collect new gate keys.

The keys to the Toilets are not always being replaced / put back after use.

The annual site inspection by the Council is expected in the very near future.

Several members raised issues regarding Pippenhall Allotments including fencing and holding plot holders responsible for the state of their plots. The members were told that these issues were for Greenwich Council and not the responsibility of EAHGS.

**Item. AGM/23/9:** Webmaster’s Report

Our webmaster has nothing to report but our site is kept up to date.

**Item. AGM/23/10:** Inter-Society Liaison Officer’s Report

John King gave an overview of other local Horticultural Societies; The Bexleyheath Society has two shops and 150 members, but their recent AGM was poorly attended. Bexley Rose Society have monthly meetings, a smaller membership but is quite active. Falconwood has an annual show and plant sale. Charlton & Blackheath are very active. We are welcome at all their events, and we should publish them in our Newsletters.

**Item. AGM/23/11:** Election of Committee Members.

Barbara Crowe has canvassed all existing committee members and everyone has agreed to continue in their current roles for the forthcoming year.

Also those attending were asked if there were any volunteers willing to join the committee, and Alison Banks agreed to join the committee.

**Item. AGM/23/12:** Any Other Business

AGM/23/12/a. Our auditor wishes to stand down and we need a volunteer to check our accounts, however as there was no one willing to take this on, Chris will carry on for a further year or until a replacement can be found.

AGM/23/12/B. Barbara Crowe asked the meeting to remember that the Newsletter is always looking for items, suggestions, articles etc. please send your ideas.

AGM/23/12/c. A member enquired if EAHGS is doing anything for the coming coronation of our King on the Holiday Monday, a barbeque was mentioned but no decision was taken.

Meeting closed at 20:35 pm

Signed:-……………………………………..

Dated:-………………………………………