**ELTHAM AND AVERY HILL GARDENS SOCIETY**

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

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Time & Venue:** 7:00pm on22nd March 2024 at Holy Trinity Church Hall

**Item. AGM/24/1**: Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Graham Farrant. David Burnie, Deirdre Hollingum.

**Item. AGM/24/2:** Welcome & Minutes

Barbara Crowe (BC) welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the last meeting dated March 31st2023 having been previously circulated to the membership were agreed and signed by BC.

**Item. AGM/24/3:** Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

**Item. AGM/24/4:** Treasurers Report

The treasures report for the year ending 31st December 2023. was circulated (see appendix I) and generally our financial situation is a stable one. Trading in the shop 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.

Mike Hill (MH) stated that though at first glance we appear to have made a loss this is not the case as we have started to write down the cost of our silverware, currently valued at £2000 on our balance sheet, by £500/ Annum, as was agreed at our last AGM and this will continue for the next few years. We have in fact made a small profit in the year 2023.

The accounts were audited for our AGM by Chris Reynolds and MH thanked her for doing this.

**Item. AGM/24/5:** Show Secretary’s Report

It was our 70th annual show and we put on a very good one, the single potato competition in particular was a big success with lots of interest/entries.

There were 220 entries by 25 exhibitors which was up on last year including 4 new exhibitors.

MH stated that he would welcome any new ideas for classes for this year’s show from the membership.

Finaly this year’s show will take place on Saturday 7thSeptember 2024 and it will be our 71ST

**Item. AGM/24/6:** Trading Officers Report

The shop opened at the beginning of February and Pat Middleton (PM) reported that the seed potatoes are in and the shop is well stocked up. The new delivery of grow bags are peat free, much bigger and more substantial, potentially holding more plants also the new soil improver is selling well.

In general prices have increased however the society has strived to keep these to an absolute minimum.

PM made a plea to everyone present to support the shop, she noted in particular that many Plot holders did not use the shop.

**Item. AGM/24/7:** Membership Secretary’s Report

Brian Greenwood (BG) gave an overview of the membership, there are currently 93 fully paid-up members, split 28 ordinary and 65 seniors. There are however still a number of unresolved memberships from last year, some of whom may yet remain members.

BG made a one-off offer on the night to the people present of membership for £1.50 to cover membership until annual renewal in October, in order to encourage the waverers to sign up.

**Item. AGM/24/8:** Webmaster’s Report

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

**Item. AGM/24/9:** Election of Committee Members.

BC announced that our Inter-Society Liaison Officer (John King) has resigned due to ill health. John acted as EAHGS eyes and ears, talking with other local gardening societies and likeminded groups keeping us up to date with their activities, so that for example any events that we hold do not clash with theirs. John’s role grew in importance, he will be greatly missed by us all, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

On behalf of EAHGS Barbara Crowe thanked John for all his hard work over the last few years.

BC reported that she has canvassed the remaining committee members and everyone has agreed to continue in their current roles for the forthcoming year. Also, that we need to urgently fill the roll vacated by John King ASAP. Those attending the meeting were asked if there were any volunteers willing to join the committee.

**Item. AGM/24/10:** Any Other Business

There was no other relevant EAHGS business.

Meeting closed at 7:15pm

Signed:-……………………………………..

Dated:-………………………………………