

Barham & District Horticultural Society
Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting held at Kingston Barn on
12th November 2009 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Brigadier M. Atherton (President), Dr. Tim Bines (Chairman), Mrs. P Austin (Treasurer), Mrs. G. McGuire (Secretary), Mrs. J. Clough and Mr. B Wright (Show Secretaries), Committee Members: Dr. C Barber, Mrs. J. Bull, Mrs. M Duke, Mrs. T. Fleming, Mrs. L. Oakey, Mrs. S Smith,

Apologies: Dave Davis and Tess Cummings

President's Address

The President opened the meeting and thanked the Chairman and Committee for their hard work during the last year making sure that the Society is a happy and successful one. The membership had increased to 245 and many members came to exhibit at the shows and took part in the outings. Children's participation had also increased.

Minutes of the 2008 AGM

The minutes were a fair reflection of last year's meeting.

Proposed by Bill Oakey and seconded by John Crothall, approved nem.com.

Reports

The Secretary gave a report on the activities of the Society last year, two very successful and well-attended talks, outings well supported. The planned coach trip to Sheffield Gardens had to be abandoned due to the coach having broken down on the way to Bridge. The Pumpkin competition had been a great success encouraging children to take part and will be repeated in 2010. The Society also took part in an Inter-Village competition at Lower Hades Horticultural Society and won 3rd price and it was decided to take part in 2010 again. She also reported on another new event, the Neame Cup competition between various Horticultural Societies in Kent and concluded that it had been a very successful year for the Society.

The Treasurer explained the financial situation according to the leaflet handed out to members.

The Show Secretary reported on the two shows which had been very successful this year and thanked Sue Smith for helping her with the entry forms and Brian Wright for preparing the schedules and organising the judges.

All three reports were proposed by Mimi Hoare and seconded by Keith Bailey, approved nem.com.

Election of Officers and Committee:

John Crothall was elected as a new Committee member. Proposed by Alison Crawley seconded by Alan Florence, approved nem.com. Chairman, officers and committee members with the exception of Mrs. J. Bull, who wished to stand down, were re-elected en bloc. This was proposed by Mimi Hoare, seconded by Valerie Carter and approved nem.com.

Chairman's Address: The Chairman reported that a PA System had been given to the Society which will make a big difference for talks, shows etc. He explained that the Society would want to buy a laptop projector to further improve the standard of presentations and the quality of our events. This will cost approx. £ 250. It is also planned to have a website for members to be able to check what is happening and for the committee to e-mail correspondence instead of posting which will save money through reduced printing and postage costs and will improve communication. The paper system will, however, be maintained for those who are not connected to the Internet. The annual fee for the website will be £ 40.

Whilst the Finances of the Society are not in trouble, the net assets are reducing year by year with an annual deficit of about £ 400 The outgoings are increasing due to increased costs for good speakers, hire of hall, fees for judges etc. Membership fees have been unchanged for 10 years and he suggested an increase as follows: single: £4, Family membership £ 6

Bill Oakey suggested an annual membership fee per member of £ 5.00. Members were asked to vote on the suggestions of the Chairman as well as that of Bill Oakey. The majority was in favour of £4 single and £6 for families. Bill Oakey also suggested charging non-members in future when good speakers are invited. The report Of the chairman was approved by majority vote of members.

Future Events: The Secretary outlined the plans for 2010 in her report.

Members' Suggestions: Coach Trip to Sheffield Park and Wisely

Talk on Bee Keeping

'A Gardeners Question Time'

AOB: Andrew Clough will deal with the seed orders and Liz Oakey with the compost orders.

The meeting closed at 8.30 and members were invited to enjoy a glass of wine and refreshments.