

## **MINUTES FOR THE VPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE YEAR 2021**

**Held – 27 April 2022      Location – Church Hall**

### **Present**

Jenny Birks, Glenda Cooper, Chris Mawhood, Josie Jeffrey, Mr and Mrs Heard, Barbara Sheard, Sandra Halsham, Sue Godar, Carolyn Wise. V and J Neve Foster, Lyn Hyde, David and Pat Seymour, Trevor Fernandez, June Abraham, Alastair and Alison Greene, Stuart and Linda Buchanan-Barrow.

The meeting welcomed the quest speakers, Julia Bolton and Amy Moffatt from Horatio's Garden.

### **1. Apologies for absence**

1.1. Phil Bunting, Tim Cooper, Lin Underwood

### **2. Adoption of the minutes for the AGM dated 2020 -**

2.1. The minutes were adopted unanimously.

### **3. Election of committee members and proposals from the floor.**

3.1. There were no proposals from the floor so the existing committee was re-elected.

### **4. Membership**

4.1. Alastair stated that there were 196 members most of whom had paid by direct debit.

4.2. He reminded the meeting of the RHS discount card which entitled two members to a 30 % discount to any of their venues and also to the group discount for approximately 55 members in one visit.

### **5 Over view of the accounts for the year 2021**

5.1. Stuart stated that the VPA was financially holding its own despite the restrictions caused by Covid.

5.2. He reported that the profit last year was almost exactly the same as the year before.

5.3. With regards to the shows, he said that it was important to note that if a brochure was printed, this incurred a cost of about £400 which meant that the event was almost sure to make a loss, something the committee were keen to avoid.

5.4. June stated however that Ashridge Management had been approached with a view to them assisting in this matter.

5.5. Stuart highlighted that the income from membership subscriptions was down by £83 but that the Harvest Supper had made a profit of £461.

5.6. It was also recorded that the plant sale had made a superb profit of £837 and the meeting was reminded that this year's event was to be held on 14 May and that donations of plants etc would be gratefully received.

### **6. Garden Store**

6.1. In her absence, Lin's report on the store was read aloud in full. (copy attached) and it was noted that the turnover was down 3.4% with 70% of all sales being made via Sum Up card machine.

6.2. The meeting gave a unanimous and hearty vote of thanks to Lin for all her magnificent efforts in running the store. It is greatly appreciated.

### **7. Replacement of the store roof**

7.1. June recorded that the store had been re-roofed over the Easter weekend and that it looked superb.

7.2. It was recorded that grants has been made from both the Parish Council and Dacorum Borough council such that the VPA funded 66 % of the cost and grants covered the remaining 34%.

7.3. Alastair also stated that Andrew Sheaf had offered to match any profits made by the forthcoming plant sale up to the limit of £500, and thanks were given to him for this generous gift.

7.4. Electrical works were still to be ordered such that the total cost was likely to be in the region of £8,500.

7.5. Redecoration works were also needed and a working party had been arranged for 11 May with all helpers welcome.

### **8. Shows and events**

8.1 The meeting was informed that Sue Godar was once again leading the organisation for the plant sale, with a request for plants etc.

8.2. The Harvest Supper was a success despite the restricted numbers. The style of the event was well established and the menu was greatly appreciated.

8.3. The revised format for the Winter Show was generally well received and the committee had received various comments about future shows which they will review as necessary.

### **9. Communications**

9.1. The meeting was reminded of the various ways that the VPA communicates. These are via Web site newsletters, Instagram, Facebook.

### **10. AOB.**

10.1. There was no other business so the meeting moved to a presentation by Amy Moffatt on Horatio's Garden