BAILDON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

DRAFT

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Baildon Golf Club, on Monday 12 December 2022 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: John Cole (JC) (President), John Turner (JT) (Chairman), Louise Mallinson (LM) (Vice-Chairperson), Catherine Dunne (CD) Treasurer, Sue Wheatley (SW) (Secretary), Robin Weedon (RW), Dawn Tinsley (DT), Peter Linley (PL), Charlotte Martin (CM), Ian Helyar (IH), Richard Nottidge (RN), Sue Kean (SK), Karen Walters (KW), Andy Holt (AH), Elisabete Ferguson (EF), Jan Studzinski (JC), John Roughton (JR), Roger Holden (RH), Kathy Holgate (KH), Dale Holgate (DH), Michael Webster (MW), Keith Matthews (KM), Kevin Charles (KC), Mandy Glover (MG), Trevor Hodgson (TG), Donna Leusen (DL), Simon Bell (SB), Louise Davies (LD), Neal Parry (NP), Paul Kearns (PK), Andrew Gregory (AG), Jackie Gregory (JG), Kate Sloan (KS), Mike Sloan (MS), Nicola York Howe (NYH), Kate Senior (KS), W. Quick (WQ), Imogen Hewitt (IH)

1.WELCOME: Society President, John Cole (JC), welcomed Members to the AGM. He noted that the turnout was good and asked everyone to sign the attendance sheet that was being circulated. He reflected that over the last few years the Committee had become stronger and that the allotments were being well run.

2.ELECTION OF CHAIR: JC asked if there were any other nominations for Chair other than JT. As there were not, a vote was taken and JT was elected unanimously for another year. He then chaired the remainder of the meeting.

3.APOLOGIES: None received

4.MINUTES of 2021 AGM: Minutes of the previous AGM were agreed as a correct record.

5.MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising that would not be covered elsewhere in the Agenda.

6.CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (copy attached to minutes)

A report had previously been circulated with the Agenda. JT went through this report. He referred to the issues that had been faced over the last year, including the pandemic and bird flu. He said that special mention needed to be given to John Cole who had been president for around 25 years. Site Sub- Committees had been set up to make decision making at each allotment site quicker. He highlighted the following achievements:

- Partnership with Hoyle Court School
- Grants for solar panels from Bradford Council and invertors from Baildon Town Council to enable the charging of power tools for the use of allotment holders
- Grant for water butts from Baildon Town Council
- Hosted Walkers are Welcome
- Worked with Eldwick and Gilstead Parish Council to learn how to run trips and talks
- Helped other societies that have been struggling
- Biggest attendance at show thanks to the team led by Dawn Tinsley
- Shops revamped (unfortunately the pandemic has resulted in on line purchases instead of purchases at the shop)
- Social events including the Jubilee get together and the Guy Fawkes bonfire
- No thefts

JT also went through the following issues:

- Avian flu was likely to continue to be a problem and more smallholders will probably give up their tenancies
- Hosepipes have sometimes been left running
- Tenants wanting to build large structures not commensurate with the size of their plots

JT then went through the developments and aspirations for 2023:

- To provide talks and trips
- On site education facility
- Community greenhouse at Thompson Lane
- To increase member participation at the show
- To continue to support gardening and horticulture in the Baildon area

JT also thanked Robin Weedon for the refurbishment of the two telephone boxes.

JC thanked JT for his full report. Members then asked for further clarification about a number of matters.

The new education facility was discussed. The amount of money that had been spent was queried. However, JT referred to the sound financial position of the Society and that it was better to use the money to promote gardening and horticulture in Baildon than keep it in the bank. Members also asked about how much more money would be required to bring the building up to a standard for it proposed use. JT advised that it had no power and that he hoped to be able to get grants for solar power. One member asked if it would need to meet building standards if it was going to be used and JT advised that a risk assessment would be carried out. Members wanted to know if they'd be able to use it and JT suggested that they'd be able to attend courses free of charge.

The need for a plot to be 75% cultivated was discussed. One member questioned whether plots with lots of paths and separate beds were actually being cultivated to this level. Whether the Committee knew how many were achieving this level was raised. JT responded by advising that regular inspections were carried out and when plots were not achieving this standard improvement letters were sent out. However, he advised that if there was a genuine reason for a lack of cultivation then the sub-committee needed to be made aware.

The need to look beyond what a plot looked like was raised by a member of the Society. E-mails had been circulated asking that plots be tidied up and that there was too much emphasis on keeping a plot tidy as opposed to crop cultivation.

7.TREASURER'S REPORT: (copy attached to minutes)

A report was tabled at the meeting. CD advised that the report had been audited by Sarah Oddy, an independent accountant.

She highlighted that:

- the shop had only made a loss of £654 not £986. Society members were managing to purchase items cheaper elsewhere resulting in lower sales. To try and address this new stock has been purchased and poultry supplies are now going to be stocked.

- She advised that the Society had renewed its membership of affiliated Societies.

- The rent payable to the Town Council had increased marginally

- A profit of £854 had been made from the show which was fantastic and commended the show team led by DT

- The accrued expenses were a bill to Acorn and a couple of honoraria payment

- The running expenses were made up of a bill for building supplies of £281; 3 skips at £250 each; solar invertors at £451; a sign for £195; £192 for a strimmer and a stove for the Charlestown hut

JT thanked CD and noted that our money in the bank was in excess of last year by around £1,000.

8. **RULE CHANGES** (copy of report attached to minutes)

JT explained that only minor tweaks had been made to the rules over the year but that these needed to be ratified by the AGM:

- The wording “plotholders” added (to rule 26).
- The use of firearms for a temporary period to cull rats. This had proved successful and a permanent change was sought (rule17)
- The introduction of a discretionary power for the site sub-committee in relation to plot allocation (introductory paragraph) and restriction of households to one garden plot (introductory paragraph)
- Reduction of probationary period from 12 to 6 months (rule 6)
- Buildings shouldn’t take light from other plots (rule 13)

The safety of shooting rats was discussed. However, it was explained that this would only take place after dark. Whether pigeons could be included was discussed however JT mentioned that often the pigeons were racing ones.

A vote was taken and these rule changes were endorsed.

9.RENTS AND MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2023

JT advised that due to the strong financial position of the Society it was not proposed to increase rents and membership fees. He explained the financial agreement between Bradford Council and Baildon Town Council. Bradford Council pay Baildon Town Council £3,000 a year to administer the allotments and our rent payable to the Town Council is £1,000.

10. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

JT advised that JC was standing down as President. He proposed that Jan Studzinski be elected as President. This was seconded. A vote was taken and JS was elected. JT presented JC with a tankard for his service to the Society.

JT advised that apart from Peter Linley and Catherine Dunne the rest of the Committee were happy to continue in their current roles for another year (JS would no longer be a Committee member as he had been elected as President). A vote was taken and this was agreed unanimously. These Committee members are:

John Turner, Chair
Louise Mallinson, Vice-Chair
Sue Wheatley, Secretary
Robin Weedon, Publicity
Dawn Tinsley, Show Secretary
Charlotte Martin, Allotment Officer, Charlestown
Ian Helyar, Health and Safety Officer
Richard Nottidge, Membership Secretary
Mike Webster, Allotment Officer, Thompson Lane
Sue Kean

JT advised that he had received the following nominations for new Committee members:

Louise Davies, Treasurer (LD is a chartered accountant)
John Roughton, Dale Holgate, General (JR is experienced in pest control and DH is an engineer)

A vote was taken and these additional Committee members were elected.

PL has served on the Committee for more than 10 years and was chair for 5 of these years. JT presented PL with a tankard for his service to the Society.

12. HONORARIA:

A vote was taken and it was agreed that these would be as follows –

Chairperson - £150
Treasurer - £150
Secretary - £150
Communications Officer - £150
Newsletter Officer - £150

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

DT was thanked for the Newsletter and the seed order by Society Members.

JT thanked everyone for attending the AGM

The meeting closed at 8:15