

# Bohemia Walled Garden Association

Registered Charity No. 1167167

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2021

Date: Wednesday September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021

Time: 6m - 8pm

Venue: Bohemia Walled Garden

Present: Terry Dixon, Bob Hart, Sue Jirbandy, Nigel Sinden, Justine Munro, Daniela Othieno, Mauricio Vincenzi, Linda Pearson, Kay Waters, Sue Dean, Christine M'Baye, Darren Windley, Abi St.Aubyn, Eric Brown, Dave Inglis, Tessa Martina, Lesley Bruce, Beryl Lovett, Kamila Breen, Carly Russell Swain, Elizabeth Heron, Karen Hayler

1. Welcome (including those present).
2. Apologies for absence: Mary Dawson, Diana Bickley, Sue Thompson, Danielle Castelino, Christopher Munn, Vicki Cooke, Matt Windley
3. Matters arising and adoption of the 2020 AGM minutes.
  - No matters arising.
  - The minutes were unanimously adopted by those present. Proposed by Tessa Martina and seconded by Christine M'Baye.
4. Accounts & Trustees Annual Report (TAR) for 2020 and adoption.
  - Accounts for the year:
    - Row of figures was duplicated and two figures showed differently in both rows. Treasurer confirmed the figures and will amend this and issue a new accounts sheet which will be published on the website with the other AGM documents.
    - Question arose what the item "Garden Expenses" was. Clarified that this was for the plants and trees for the last phase of the forage garden and plants for the border.
  - The Accounts (with amendments above) were unanimously adopted by those present. Proposed by Lesley Bruce and seconded by Beryl Lovett.
  - Trustee Annual Report:
    - It was acknowledged that the garden was kept going and kept open for members throughout the lockdowns, as well as for the general public whenever rules allowed. Many people fed back that this was invaluable help for mental and physical health during the first year of the pandemic.
    - Highlights were a couple of community task days and also a local choir using the garden for practice in September, and giving a generous donation which was gratefully received.
    - Those present also wanted to acknowledge the more recent activity in 2021, such as the various community task days that brought people together again, and the involvement with the Sanctuary Festival organised by Hastings Supports Refugees. Volunteers managed to pull together garden tours for around 60 people on very short notice. Also mentioned was the

collaboration with Groundworks/Greener Futures which has brought volunteering opportunities for more people in the community to the garden, and will hopefully continue.

- The trustees stressed that the garden was in acute need of volunteers for administrative and general management tasks, in order to keep running, and especially to realise the lovely plans for the future. Terry Dixon has recently joined the committee, and others expressed interest at the meeting, which the committee members will follow up on.
- The TAR was unanimously adopted by those present. Proposed by Sue Jirbandey and seconded by Terry Dixon.

#### 5. Action Plan for 2021/22.

- Highlights discussed were the plans to re-start public events again, starting this year with Pumpkin Day on 30 October. Also, the committee asked for feedback from members over this year about building a rain and sun shelter by the new wall, The response was enthusiastic and members gave a lot of detailed input on how they would like the shelter to be. Trustees stressed again that this would only be possible with more admin. Management and fundraising support.
- One amendment to the action plan was agreed: Water is still an issue in the garden, with current water sources having become unreliable. The shelter building will be one way to collect more rain water, but several meeting attendees suggested to again look into other sources. One suggestion was to contact Southern Water to at least do a site survey to advise about options for the site. Another suggestion was to link up with the contractors working on Broxhall Reservoir. The committee members advised that Hastings Borough Council would have to be involved in any such activity. The suggestions will be added to the Action Plan and discussed at the next committee meeting.
- The Action Plan (with above additions) was unanimously adopted those present. Proposed by Beryl Lovett and seconded by Tessa Martina.

#### 6. Election of Trustees.

- Nigel, Daniela, Justine and Sue were willing to continue in the roles they do currently.
- Roles were agreed and trustees elected unanimously by those present.

#### 7. Any other business submitted before the meeting.

- No items were submitted before the meeting. The following items were raised in the meeting.
- A member raised a question whether there was a policy about football on the lawn. Clarified that there isn't as such, but that we

would expect any ballgames to be contained and not affecting other garden users. Committee will pick this up if there are issues.

- Members asked about the pumpkin harvesting and soup making. Pumpkins will be harvested by volunteers soon. Soup recipe is on the website and will also be sent out in the next newsletter before the event.

Copies of the following documents are available online at the web site under the "Reference Documents" section.

[http://www.bohemiawga.org.uk/reference\\_documents.html](http://www.bohemiawga.org.uk/reference_documents.html)

Annual General Meeting 2021 minutes

Accounts & Trustee Annual Report for 2020

Accounts for 2020

Action Plan for 2021/22