

Bohemia Walled Garden Association

Registered Charity No. 1167167

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2022

Date: 1st October 2022

Time: 11am-1pm

Venue: St Leonards-on-Sea Methodist Church, 39 Bohemia Rd, Hastings, Saint Leonards-on-Sea TN37 6RA

Present: Cllr Nigel Sinden (Chair), Sue Jirbandy (Treasurer), Daniela Othieno (Sec), Justine (Sec) Munro, Darren Windley, Beryl Lovett, Lesley Bruce, Dinah Rogers, Abi St Aubyn, Sue Dean, Susan Thomson, Linda Pearson, Christopher Mann, Tom Clayton, Christine M'Baye

1.	Welcome to everyone and a thank you for everyone's hard work over the year to create a wonderful garden – particularly given the challenges of doing it under COVID for much of this time - well done everyone.
2.	Apologies for absence: Diana Brickley, Matt Windley, Kamila Breen, Karen Hayler, Terry Dixon
3.	Minutes of the 2021 AGM.
4.	Matters arising and adoption of the 2021 AGM minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No matters arising. <p>The minutes were unanimously adopted by those present. Proposed by Daniela Othieno and seconded by Christopher Munn.</p>
5.	Accounts & Trustees Annual Report (TAR) for 2021 and adoption. Accounts for the year: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minor amendment to the 'Receipts and payments account' for the year ended 31st December 2021. The £468 currently under energy is to be moved to a maintenance category, to better track the costs of the compost loo maintenance. <p>The Accounts (with amendment above) were unanimously adopted by those present. Proposed by Beryl Lovett and seconded by Lesley Bruce.</p> <p>Trustee Annual Report: In summary:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Since the last AGM where help was requested with the administrative aspects of running the garden, we welcomed three new people to join our committee.• The works of the gardens continued through COVID with cover being provided where plot holders were unable to keep up with their plots during this difficult time.• The regular public opening times on Wed & Sun were reinstated as soon as possible.• The garden held one public event – Pumpkin Day and took part in the Sanctuary Festival at Hastings Museum.• Highlights of the activities around the community gardens include a new partnership with Ground Works with training sessions open to plot members as well as Ground Works participants, an ongoing partnership with Eggtooth, a workshop in the foragers garden and also the gardens have featured as a case study in Anna Locke's book 'The Foragers Garden'.• The lack of water has been an issue over the year, with plans put in place to find a solution to this.• The plots are popular, with the waiting list closed for much of the year due to oversubscription.

	<p>The TAR was unanimously adopted with no amendments by those present. Proposed by Christine M'Baye and seconded by Dinah Rogers.</p>
6.	<p>Action Plan for 2022/23.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a suggestion from a plot holder, that where due to existing commitments their participation in gardening in the communal areas wasn't possible, that the opportunity to contribute financially could be made. Or potentially that the plot fees could be shown on a sliding scale, to encourage a donation above the requested baseline fee, without any obligation for those who would not be able to afford an increase in plot fees. • There was a suggestion that the tool tidy should be upgraded to allow the tools to be stored more tidily. • Continue to work to source water for the garden. • Would be good to update the history booklet to include the important role of the gardens through COVID, however it was agreed we should use our current stocks of c.50 first, if necessary adding a 'slip in' addendum to the back. • Members and supporters to be encouraged to use AmazonSmile – at no extra cost to our members/supporters this can raise important funds for the gardens - see smile.amazon.co.uk • Look into potential merchandise – bags/seeds and potentially using special creative garden events to create these. • Strengthen joint working with Arts in the Park, potentially running a stall with Arts on Prescription. • Liaise with Dom's Food Mission to see if there is any way the garden community can donate surplus produce. • Build the garden community through the summer social event and a weekend workday. Encourage everyone to do at least 1 weekend day every 6 months. • A sub-committee is to be created to manage the activities of the community groups in the garden. Also need help with the garden's inbox management and with social media. <p>The Action Plan (with above additions) was unanimously adopted by those present. Proposed by Cllr Nigel Sinden and seconded by Christopher Munn.</p>
7.	<p>Election of Trustees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Nigel Sinden and Sue Jirbandy were willing to continue in their roles as Trustees. • Cllr Nigel Sinden will continue as Chair and Sue Jirbandy will continue as Treasurer. • Daniela Othieno and Justine Munro stepped down as Trustees. A special thank you to them for all their hard work over the years. • Two new Trustees were elected unanimously – Lesley Bruce & Beryl Lovett. • Roles were agreed and Trustees elected unanimously by those present.
8.	<p>Any other business submitted before the meeting.</p> <p>No items were submitted before the meeting. The following items were raised in the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A voluntary group called the 'Band of Brothers' are to be approached to see if they could help with projects within the garden, or potentially, with the agreement of HBC removal of silt from the pond. • The garden on top of ESK has sadly closed and some materials from here have kindly been donated to the gardens (children mud kitchen) as well as some offers of help from their participants with our forage garden.