

Grayshott Community Orchard Project (GCO)

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2025)

Monday 9th June 7pm – Grayshott Sports Pavilion Lounge

Present

Bob Greggs (Chair), Graham Burgess (Treasurer), Deborah Perrin (Secretary), Andy Haymes, Ruth Holden, Simon Philp (GPC representative)

Plus 7 members of the public: Trish Greggs, Chris Haymes, Bea Jennings, Roger Jennings, Carl Taylor, Gill Warburton, John Warburton

Welcome from the Chair

BG welcomed all present. He explained that this was the second AGM of GCO and summarised the constitutional position re the normal term of office and the rules relevant to Committee members standing down and seeking re-election.

Apologies

Piers Cooke-Yarborough
Tom Hanrahan

Minutes of the Previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM on 12 March 2024 were approved (proposed by DP, seconded by BG).

Report from Officers

Chair

BG provided a comprehensive report (attached) of progress over the year. The report was distributed to all attendees at the start of the meeting.

Treasurer

GB summarised the income and expenditure during the year (summary report provided to all attendees). The opening and closing surpluses were £1989.59 and £1692.01, respectively. He explained that the largest expenditure was for grass cutting, the costs for which are anticipated to reduce in the future due to the acquisition of a strimmer funded by three separate grants. The event income itemised in the report (£530) came from the wassailing event on 10 January.

GB also explained that the income received at the recent Hidden Gardens of Grayshott (c.£900) will be included in the accounts for the next financial year.

GB paid tribute to Colin Thompson, who was instrumental in securing the land for the orchard and, as one of the original committee members, getting the orchard planted and available for the community.

Election of Committee Members

DP explained that the constitution states that the Management Committee is elected at the AGM with the Officers (Chair, Treasurer, Secretary) elected by the Committee at the first meeting after the AGM.

BG invited existing Committee members to indicate if they wished to stand for re-election.

The following summarises who stood down from the Committee and who was re-elected:

- TH had let the Committee know ahead of the meeting that he wished to retire as a member and, in order to provide an opportunity for a new person to be elected to the Committee, did not seek re-election.
- As BG explained in his report, he was standing down as Chair after a 2 year term as per the Constitution but would seek re-election as a member.
- In absentia, PC-Y offered himself for re-election.
- All other existing members of the Committee offered themselves for re-election (GB, AH, RH DP, SP).
- BJ wished to stand for election.
- Prior to the meeting, Nicola Martin had indicated she would seek election but was not at the meeting. It was agreed that clarification would be sought from NM as to whether she wished to join the Committee. CT said he would seek election if NM chose not to do so.

There was some discussion about how to interpret the Constitution in relation to the number of Committee members allowed. DP explained that it states that the Committee consists of three officers and up to six other members. It also states that the Committee "shall have the power to fill vacancies/co-opt additional members as required". It was

unclear if co-option could be used to increase the number of members above nine so that, for example, TH, NM and CT could all be members through election/ co-option.

Action: DP to liaise with Richard Lyon to clarify intent of constitution in relation to the number of Committee members

Action: DP to liaise with NM, CT and TH about becoming a Committee member

Committee Members for next 12 months

Graham Burgess
Piers Cooke-Yarborough
Bob Greggs
Andy Haymes
Ruth Holden
Bea Jennings
Deborah Perrin
Simon Philp
Nicola Martin or Carl Taylor

The above Committee composition was proposed by GB and seconded by TG.

The meeting expressed its thanks to Bob Greggs for steering the Committee and orchard through its first two eventful and successful years laying a firm foundation from which to improve and mature.

AOB

Grants: In response to a question from JW, BG confirmed that there are grants available different to those already sought that could support providing better accessibility near to/ in the orchard.

Events: The meeting discussed potential future events. Options discussed were:

- a quiz at an internal venue such as the Village Hall – suggested by RH
- a production by a local theatre group to be held in the orchard itself e.g. Midsummer Night's Dream – suggested by BJ)
- a party/ BBQ in the orchard – suggested by BG.

Squire's vouchers: GB informed the meeting that AH had secured £500 worth of vouchers from Squire's through their 'Love Where You Live' community gardening programme.

The meeting closed at 1934h