



Sandhurst and District Gardening Club
Minutes of the 59th AGM held at Sandhurst
Community Centre on Wednesday February
16th 2022 at 7.15 pm

1.	Welcome	Chris Dresler
	<p>The meeting commenced at 7.15 pm. Chris welcome everyone to the meeting, saying how good it was to be holding an AGM again after 2 years.</p>	
2.	Minutes of 2020 AGM/2021 update	Julie Sheppard
	<p>The minutes of the 2020 AGM were agreed as an accurate record. Proposed by: Richard Cox Seconded: Sandra Hooper The notes sent out in lieu of an AGM for 2021 (due to the Covid pandemic) were approved by the members. Proposed by: David Hunt Seconded: Pat Roome</p>	
3.	Matters arising	Julie Sheppard
	<p>There was one matter arising from the previous AGM, relating to men helping in the kitchen occasionally. Steve Roome agreed to co-ordinate a team of men to provide the tea/coffee at the May '22 meeting – Peter Radband, Tony Winter & David Dunford</p>	
4.	Chairman's report	Chris Dresler
	<p>It is hard to believe that two years of our lives have slipped by with the pandemic. In that time, we tried to keep you informed and as up-to-date as possible with club matters. We were able to have Zoom meetings and thanks to David Dunford for his IT skills in making this happen. We produced newsletters and quizzes and information and we had virtual shows. And of course, our wonderful Trading hut manned mostly by Jane and John Heritage at the height of the pandemic. And a wonderful plant sale by Sunil Patel at his home which raised over £400. We are repeating that this year on 28th May, instead of the May club night, as stated in the programme.</p> <p>So now in our 59th year with all restrictions lifted, we hope to be able to have the lovely programme we have organised for the next 13 months. Members are re-joining at a rate of knots so we are looking for new members to join us on the committee and help take us into the future. It is not an onerous job, one club night a month and one committee meeting and helping when needed with refreshments, shows and at club nights. Also helping at the Trading hut which is vital to the success of the club. We take a lot of trouble with the newsletter to keep you informed, so please make sure you read it. <i>There were no questions from the floor.</i></p> <p>Proposed by: Hilary Corio Seconded: Jane Heritage</p>	

5.	Treasurer's report	Steve Roome
<p>Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hut Sales (excl. the sales to California Club of £996) were up by £895 or almost 7%. The higher sales and a higher margin of 14% produced an increase in profit of £650 to just over £2,000. Subscription income decreased by £501 although this was voluntary last year. Some expenses were higher than last year, with the biggest changes being in stationery, phone & postage costs which rose from £282 to £419 mainly due to increased postage costs in posting rather than hand delivering newsletters Sundry expenses which rose from £247 to £338 due to the hut workshop costs which was not held in 2020. Other expenditure was broadly in line with previous years, however there were two exceptional items during the year. The first was £167 for COVID protection screens in the Trading Hut and the second was £3,672 on roof repairs at the Hut. The deficit on Activities increased by £151 (Deficit of £196 compared to £45) The deficit on Club nights increased by £113 due to the costs of speakers for Zoom meetings of £576 with practically no income from raffles or refreshments. However, this was partially offset by the very successful plant sale organised by Sunil Patel & Gareth Evans which raised £405. There was no Christmas Party or Shows in 2021. The deficit on Coach trips was £20 which was the result of the Ramster trip being cancelled at short notice due to adverse weather conditions with some members who had booked the trip being unable to go on the revised date. <p>Overall income over expenditure moved from a surplus of £685 to a deficit of £3,386, however this would have been a surplus of £453 if the one-off expenditure on the Trading Hut is excluded.</p> <p>Cash & Bank Balances decreased from £17,927 to £14,708.</p> <p>Generally, the Club is in a healthy financial position, however the importance of keeping a good cash balance is emphasised by the one-off expenditure last year.</p> <p>Steve was congratulated by a member on the clarity of the presentation of his accounts. <i>There were no questions from the floor.</i></p> <p>Proposed by: Sandra Hooper Seconded: Carol Killick</p>		
6.	Trading Hut report	Jane Heritage
<p>Yet another challenging year for the club but, in spite of the difficulties keeping the hut stocked with deliveries taking much longer, we still managed our best year ever for sales - £15,118. This is rather surprising since club membership at the end of 2019 (before Covid) was 347 but by the end of 2021 it had dropped to 254. We hope this will pick up as club activities begin again.</p> <p>Once again, we bought some stock for California Club which helps us get the best prices and keep the stock turning over. This amounted to £995.</p> <p>Hut expenses, other than stock purchased, were significantly down mainly owing to lower hut maintenance costs.</p> <p>Profit last year was approximately £2000.</p>		

	<p>We are slowly changing some of our stock to take into account the move to peat-free. We now stock 3 peat-free composts and one peat reduced. Even Jiffy 'peat pots' have become peat-free and we try to reuse some plastic bags and Pistachios gives us ice cream cartons for the vermiculite & perlite. Here is an interesting fact: in 2019 we sold 9 bags of peat free compost. In 2021 we sold 66 peat-free and 55 peat-reduced.</p> <p>I have been training a few more members to work on the counter and learn more about the hut. You will be meeting these when you visit. So far, I think they are enjoying it. You know that I will be stepping down as trading secretary at the end of this year, having extended it by a year because of Covid. It is hoped a team of 3 will work together and take over the job but, so far, only one member has offered to be part of this team. We don't want the hut to close so do think about whether you can help, it does have its frustrations but is very enjoyable otherwise I wouldn't have done it for 20+ years. Get in touch if you want to know more.</p> <p>Lesley Williams is getting to grips with recruiting volunteers to help on Sundays and Wednesdays. Thank you, Lesley. If she does email you do try and help if you can.</p> <p>Many thanks to Graham and Helen Harding who now look after the bird food ordering and bagging up. Also, to Ruth Page & Liz Crow for organising the bulbs and David Dunford the seeds.</p> <p>Members, thank you for supporting the club by buying and thank you to everyone who has helped. <i>There were no questions from the floor.</i></p> <p>Proposed by: Hilary Corio Seconded: Pat Roome</p>	
7.	Election of committee	Julie Sheppard
	<p>Members were asked to consider standing on the committee. The importance of new blood, with new ideas was emphasised and the importance of the committee if the club was to continue in providing events such as club nights, shows and the trading hut. It was explained that Gill Clark was standing down from the committee so there was the opportunity for new members to stand, although the main officers were willing to stand again. Following discussion, 2 members agreed to come to the next committee meeting as a 'taster' before committing themselves to stand as a committee member: Ed Swindells & Carole Hickman.</p> <p>The committee proposed were: Chris Dresler, Jane Heritage, Steve Roome, Sandra Hooper, Sheila Davenport, Ruth Page, Carol McGowan, Derek Dolling, David Dunford, Julie Sheppard & Liz Crowe</p> <p>Proposed by: Colin Killick Seconded: David Hunt</p>	
8.	AOB	Julie Sheppard
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) A possible difficulty for new committee members was the fact that committee meetings were held in the evenings and some of the older members didn't like driving at night. The availability of lifts was noted. ii) The possibility of having some afternoon talks was raised – possibly at a different venue if the community centre wasn't available. Approx. 30% of members present at the meeting said they would be interested in this. iii) A sign-up sheet for members to indicate that they would be willing to help with serving refreshments that evening was suggested. <p>It was agreed that all these points would be added to the agenda for the next committee meeting.</p>	

	iv) Hilary Corio spoke on behalf of the members to thank the committee for all their hard work. She had been a member for 30+ years, and enjoyed the events offered by the club; she was often pleasantly surprised by how interesting the speakers were, learning a lot. The outings were enjoyable and provided a good opportunity to make new friends, especially as everyone was very friendly.	
9.	Presentations	Chris Dresler
	<p>The help of certain members over the past year was acknowledged with a small gift.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Hunt for managing the website • Pat Roome and Gill Coe (who had given her apologies for the meeting) for their hard work on creating and maintaining the flower border outside the Memorial Hall. 	
10.	Close of meeting	
	The meeting closed at 7.55 pm	