

BERKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST (the “Trust”)

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Barn, Purley-on-Thames,
Berkshire RG8 8DR on Friday 3rd October 2014 at 7.00pm.**

President: Lady Wroughton
Chairman: His Honour Charles Elly
Treasurer: Hugh Simon
Secretary: Fiona Hope

1. Chairman's welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman, Charles Elly, opened the meeting and welcomed the President, Lady Wroughton, members and guests present, especially The Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Mary Bayliss.

Apologies for absence were received from The High Sheriff of Berkshire, Mr Jeremy Bayliss and nine members: Christina Hill Williams (Vice-President), Susan Balchin, Eve North, Mrs Strilli Oppenheimer, Patricia Simpson, Kaye Warner (Membership Secretary), Clive Williams and B & J Brooker (Sonning & Sonning Eye Society). Proxy forms were received from Christina Hill Williams and Clive Williams.

The Secretary, Fiona Hope, noted that 37 members were present in person and confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

2. President's address

Lady Wroughton, President, addressed the meeting, mentioning in particular the contribution which Christina Hill Williams had played in the formation of the Trust and its first 5 years, and that the Trust chairmanship had now passed seamlessly to the new chairman, which was a tribute to both of them.

She also referred to the work of the committee across a range of activities, from organising lectures and garden visits to the research group and work on the gazetteer, WWI and Capability Brown 300th anniversary and actively responding to planning applications. She was also pleased to note the progress at Watlington House and looked forward to more developments in a successful 2015.

3. Minutes of Annual General Meeting on 25th October 2013

The minutes had been posted on the website as well as hard copies being available at the meeting. The minutes of the 2013 AGM were adopted by all present, with no matters arising.

Proposer: Peter Thorn; Seconder: Indra Townsend.

4. Chairman's report

The Chairman's Report, which together with the Treasurer's Report formed the 2013-2014 Trustees' Report, had been posted on the website with copies available at the meeting.

Charles Elly explained that the main focus of his report was the previous financial year, which had been successful overall, with the poorly attended Autumn lecture being offset by a very well attended Spring lecture and subsequent June visit to Upton Grey. He thanked Christina Hill Williams for her enthusiasm as chairman and her support in handing over chairmanship. While taking on this role had been a steep learning curve, he was very grateful for the support of the committee and emphasised that more volunteers would be welcome.

The Trustees' Report was adopted by all present.
Proposer: Peter Thorn; Seconder: Indra Townsend.

5. Treasurer's report

Hugh Simon thanked the committee for supporting him in his third year as Treasurer and was pleased to announce a surplus of £1,456 for the financial year to 31/3/2014 compared with the deficit he had noted in 2013. He stressed that with the cessation of the Capacity Building Grant from English Heritage, the Trust had introduced emailing of newsletters, invitations and other papers to reduce expenditure. He referred to the increase of net assets over the year as detailed in his report and in particular that the Trust was most grateful for the donations from lecture fees received from Christina Hill Williams, Vice-President. Finally he thanked those who had completed Gift Aid declarations on their membership and Brian Tubman, Examiner to the accounts.

6. Adoption of the Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2014

Leading on from Item 5 above, Hugh Simon briefly presented this formal report which had been submitted to Companies House.

The Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts was adopted by all present.
Proposer: Mike Fellows; Seconder: David Townsend.

7. Election of Trustees:

The following Trustees were re-elected for a term of three years in accordance with the Articles of Association:

- **Gaila Adair**, proposed by Bettina Kirkham and seconded by Ben Viljoen.
- **Charles Elly**, proposed by Hugh Simon and seconded by Gaila Adair.
- **Peter Thorn**, proposed by Bettina Kirkham and seconded by Indra Townsend.

This item concluded the formal business of the evening, following which there was a break for refreshments prior to the AGM Lecture given by Hal Moggeridge, Landscape Architect.

Fiona Hope, 17th October 2013
Executive Secretary, Berkshire Gardens Trust