

**Rutland Group of the Hardy Plant Society**

**MINUTES OF THE AGM 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

1. **Apologies:** Sharon White, Paul Cutler, Jeremy Godbolt, Diana Corps.
2. **Minutes of the last AGM:** - Were agreed as a true record, proposed by Christine Lawson and seconded by John Dyson.
3. **Matters Arising:** There were none.
4. **Treasurer's Report:**

As you'll see from the Accounts Statement there is quite a large deficit for the year.

This was mainly down to the Committee deciding to use some of the funds held in our accounts to fully cover the cost of the coach trip to the gardens in Suffolk for our members, as a thank you for your support. I'm sure you'll agree this was very worthwhile.

The other major expenses were for a new entrance gazebo (£292) for the Plant Fair entrance and new signs. (£220). Uppingham Community College fee for rental of the playing field (£216) was also higher than in previous years. The actual profit made though was £503 which went some way towards covering the speaker's fees at our meetings. Thank you to Christine for all her hard work in running this event.

We do still have a balance of £7616 and so are able to continue for the foreseeable future. I have been Treasurer for 10 years and will continue to do so for one more year unless someone would like to take over my role!

NB

The total for stall rents for 2023 Plant Fair £525:

£280 paid in late 2022

£245 paid in 2023

The remainder of the £490 (£245) listed on the Statement for stall rents is for the Plant Fair in this year, 2024

Proposed by Joe Nourish, seconded by Christine Lawson

5. **Re-appointment of Independent Examiner.** Archie Saens is willing to continue in this role. Proposed John Dyson and seconded by Nigel Day.

## 6. Chairman's Report:

We have enjoyed a varied selection of talks and activities over the past few months including a coach trip to Suffolk. Members were treated to visits to a lovely NGS garden and Perennial's Garden at Fuller's Mill. A stop at a local garden nursery, antiques emporium and cafe rounded off an enjoyable day out. The cost of this outing was subsidised for members by group funds. Later in the summer members paid an evening visit to Pat and Henry's Garden at Whissendine, followed by a meal at the local pub. The Annual Plant Fair was held in May at Uppingham Community College. The weather was kind and it raised welcome funds for the group. The talks programme has already been planned for 2024 and, if members are in agreement, the possibility of a coach trip. This year's Plant Fair will be held on Sunday 26th May at Uppingham Community College. I hope that you will continue to support this and our other group activities, which would not be possible without the input of your hard-working committee. On that note, I would urge you, as members, to consider joining the committee. The present committee have been in post for many more years than the constitution recommends. The future of the Rutland Group depends on willing volunteers and is in real danger of folding if nobody comes forward. As you will have already noticed in John Dyson's email to you, we have volunteers ready to organise the talks programme, but only for two years. Other committee roles include Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Publicity, Plant Fair Organiser, Membership secretary and Website Manager. We would welcome nominations for all or any of these roles or just a nomination to be a committee member would enable new volunteers to become familiar with how the group is run. May I take this opportunity to thank the committee for all their valuable contributions over the past year. Let's hope that the Rutland Group of The Hardy Plant Society will continue and remain a part of the horticultural interests of the county and beyond.

Proposed by Judy Templar, seconded by Pat Woolston.

7. **Election of Officers:** - Chairman Gill Hadland Proposed by John Hudson and seconded by Henry Woolston, Treasurer Mary Nourish Proposed by John Dyson and seconded by Henry Woolston. Secretary Anne Godbolt proposed by Christine Lawson and seconded by Nigel Day.
8. **Election of committee Members:** - (John Dyson, Jeremy Godbolt, Pat Woolston, Janet Rowe, Christine Lawson) Proposed by Hilary Smith and Seconded by Jo Porter.
9. **A.O.B:** John Dyson said that he had been on the Rutland Committee since 2004, for a proposed 5 years and that he is still on it 20 years later. He added that more volunteers were needed for our committee if the group is to continue.
10. **Date of next meeting:** 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025.