

AGM – 30th November 2017

Location:	The Wheelhouse, West Horsley
Directors Present:	John Fluker, John Whitlock, Lyn Payne, Ray Beard, Ashley Brown, Nicki Douet, Amanda de Haast, Su Johnston & Robin Satow, Helena Stuart-Matthews & Michael Trower
Apologies:	Jeremy & Chris Coventry, Pamela Holt, Ken & Jane MacIntyre & Tom Suffolk
Chairman	John Fluker
Minute Taker:	Jane King

Agenda Item	Discussion Points
1. Welcome by Chairman: John Fluker	<p>Everyone was welcomed to the 9th AGM.</p> <p>First thing I need is your approval to chair the meeting. <i>Proposer: Helena Stuart-Matthews and Seconder: Heather Spackman.</i> Members' approval by show of hands.</p> <p>Resignations:</p> <p>One third step down. Resigning this year: Su Johnston, Ray Beard, Bob Spackman and Michael Trower. All except Su have put themselves forward for re-election.</p> <p>Re-election of Ray, Bob and Michael. <i>Proposer: Eddie Woodhouse and Seconder: Claire Brown.</i> Members' approval by show of hands.</p> <p>Stepping Down: Su is stepping down and we will miss her greatly at board meetings. Without her there would be no Grace & Flavour and no garden so nothing can really express the thanks we owe her. Presentation of gifts – huge round of applause.</p> <p>Founder of the Garden: We also ask Su to accept the title. Su accepted.</p> <p>Chairman: Finally my term as chairman is up and we are pleased to tell you one of the committee has volunteered to take over; Amanda de Haast. <i>Proposer: Mark Blower and Seconder: David Pile.</i> Members' approval by show of hands.</p> <p>John W spoke to say it had been fabulous to have John F as a chairman. Just like Bob, John is still going to be part of the garden. Presentation of gift to John F. Round of applause.</p>
2. Chairman's Report:	<p>The garden is looking better than ever.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potting Shed – Kitchen opened and in use. Thank you to Rob, Bruce and Tony and all of the building team. It has proved excellent for summer Directors' meetings and for coffee in bad weather. It is also being used to store lots of produce. Now for the toilet. • Tithe – Was again a great success. 12 weeks. 34 volunteers delivered 390 boxes to 36 addresses. So our thanks go to Helena, Amanda, Nicki and all those involved in the garden, to the Wheel of Care for the deliveries and of course to John Whitlock for planning and growing vegetables to fill the boxes. • Flowers – Helena with Brigitte produced beautiful bunches of flowers throughout the summer. 400 bunches to brighten up our homes and also G&F. Round of

	<p>applause.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit – We need a fruit cage to protect the soft fruit and maximise the crop but the fruit otherwise was fantastic. Slide of a pear that weighed 1 ½ pounds, congratulations to Dana-Leigh. Thank you to Dana-Leigh for her devotion to the fruit trees. • Lavender – After the lavender disaster last year the replanting is now beginning to restore it to its former glory, thanks to Tom’s hard work. He always insists on disappearing to France just before it is at its best. Tom also needs thanks for keeping the site tidy. • Events – All the events went well, they included apple pressing, squash lunch, cycling, cheese and wine. • Vegetable Stalls – Thanks to Jane and others who managed our stalls at Horsley Garden Society shows and at the Fete which raised our profile and raised money for the garden. • Wall – National Trust are coming to see the leaning wall.
<p>3. Allotments: Michael Trower</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plots - all plots are under cultivation and there is no waiting list. • Cherry Tree - unfortunately another tree has had to be felled – this was the cherry tree in the middle of the allotments. The tree surgeon’s report left us with no option. Some of the wood had been taken by a wood working group. Suggestions for its replacement have been; three votes for a Cherry Tree, one suggestion for a ring of 9 Cherry Trees, one vote a Magnolia, one vote a Silver Birch. A Mulberry Tree has been offered but with the provision it is fairly large and may possibly not take transplanting. (the current mulberry is nearing the end of its life). A Walnut Tree was suggested at a committee meeting. • Powered Machinery – The directors regret the need to place a ban at short notice on the use of powered machinery at the allotments on a Sunday. Unfortunately after the use of a strimmer at 9.00 a.m. by an allotment holder a complaint was received from our neighbours at Holme Cottage. Many of our planning constraints can be attributed to these neighbours and in an effort to placate them this restriction was instigated. This was not undertaken lightly and will be reviewed at the next committee meeting. There were comments made that it was done without consultation, but I would point out that there are no less than five allotment holders who are directors on the committee, so lack of representation is not a valid issue. It is going to be reviewed by the committee at the first Directors’ meeting in 2018. • Problems – A major problem this season has been with moles, and to a lesser extent with rabbits. Actions has been taken to try and eradicate the problem and has been quite successful – thanks to those involved in this. • Drainage – more has been installed. Thank you to the building team. • Parish Councils – agreed to continue our funding at the previous level and new agreements are in the course of being drawn up for the three years 2017/8/9. • Facebook Group – it is not our main form of communication but if anyone has any pictures feel free to put them on. <p>Questions/Comments:</p> <p>Cherry Tree – was there any sign of disease? There was 80% rot in the centre. Bracket fungus and not honey fungus. Cannot plant a tree in that exact spot.</p>
<p>4. Garden Manager’s report: John Whitlock</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bonfire & Lavender slide – We keep moving forward as a garden. Garden is now organic. Have been experimenting with ‘no dig’ and will see what happens. • 2017 Problems slide – Whitefly a big problem on the sprouts. Chase Organics visited and John asked about how to deal with it. They came back to suggest to use a dust bug vacuum cleaner. Something ate 2 beds of the peas. • Successful Slide – Most things were successful. Over 1200 cucumbers. Deep into winter and we still have plenty of produce • New to 2017 Slide – No dig has worked well. Tim, our unsung hero, gets hold of a

	<p>project and it goes well; blackberries, comfrey and leaf mould on the go. Another manure delivery due on Saturday.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Slide – Borlotti beans have been good and we will get more bean sticks and grow more next year. Will also get some more autumn rhubarb. Going to try celery, it will taste very different to what you buy in the shops. <p>Questions:</p> <p>What are grafted aubergines? Aubergines that have been grafted onto another root stock to give them strength. They are not the easiest things to grow and get an extra boost from being grafted.</p>
<p>5. Membership: Su Johnston</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mailing List – 370 on the mailing list at the moment. • Database – 215 on the database. Jane MacIntrye and Nicki Douet process the timesheets. 36 people have filled out a timesheet in the last 6 months. Percentage discount changes very little. The membership is stable. • Survey – Su started a survey in the village this afternoon. Responses from 23 locals. Highest percentage of respondents do not know where the garden is. People know G&F exists. Not entirely sure how to get involved or where it is. • INVITE, WELCOME, CONNECT Slide – Best way to get people involved is to bring them along to the events. <p>Questions/Comments:</p> <p>Is it time to have a permanent sign? The thieves know where we are so maybe it is time to have a sign. A banner attached to gate was suggested. Concerned that we might get too many buyers and not enough workers. We tend to be kind and let people buy the crops in short supply for active members.</p>
<p>6. Financial Results: Ashley Brown</p>	<p>Presentation of slides.</p> <p>Income: Just over £7,000. Only £24 less than last year.</p> <p>Expenses Slide: Around £5,000.</p> <p>Fruit Cage & Guttering: Not spent yet.</p> <p>Cost of Sales: Things John W spends money on. Nothing out of the ordinary.</p> <p>Potting Shed: Only spent around £2,000 this year. £39,939 spent in total of which £26,639 is grants.</p> <p>Auditor: Need to reappoint our auditor, Brian Manners.</p> <p>Questions/Comments: Various members of the committee responded to the questions raised by the members:</p> <p>How much will the wall cost? We have a contingency fund. We do not know how much it will cost yet.</p> <p>Does the auditor get something? We will put together a box of vegetables and a bottle of wine.</p> <p>We are a rich and wealthy community and we have spent £40,000 on a potting shed. What was the original budget and how has the spend been controlled? It feels wrong to have spent that much money. There are impoverished areas of Guildford.</p> <p>There is the guttering and toilet to finish at around £1,500.</p> <p>How much more are we going to spend? The real decision is for the committee to decide and the finance sub group, we allocate agreed funding now each year based on what we believe we can afford and will continue to do that to control the spend to agreed levels.</p> <p>From a controls prospective, how much is it really going to be? We have now taken enough grant money. Other groups need access to grants now. We have restored a building that is in our stewardship and been able to do a good job because of the free labour.</p> <p>Most has been from developers. Some of the funding has been given to us and we</p>

	<p>have been approached. If we had not spent the money the developers would have got it back.</p> <p>What are we going to do with this asset? There is a clause in the lease and the purpose for the site is for the growing of vegetables. We would like to throw it open to other groups but we are unable to because of the clause.</p> <p>For just a potting shed it is very expensive? It is good to restore the assets. We use it for committee meetings in the summer. Other possibilities in due course. Part of it could be used as a shop. Perhaps we could talk to the National Trust about it. If we can make this garden last forever then £40,000 won't be so bad.</p> <p>We had to restore it to national standards (no one defined what they were). We had to do things properly and it should be maintenance free. What is there now should last.</p> <p>.</p>
<p>7. Website: Ashley Brown</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trying to build up the photo gallery. • Some input comes in from John W and Eddie. • Steady stream of visits, about 400 visits per month. Most visitors from the Ukraine. Events go on. • Slide – Showing viewed and most popular pages.
<p>8. Wildlife: John Fluker for Ed Woodhouse in his absence</p>	<p>Presentation of slides prepared by Ed Woodhouse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pond – there have been comments that it looks a mess. Cleaning will not start until early spring. Two thirds of the plants will be taken out. • Birds of Prey – We get Kestrel, Buzzard and Sparrow Hawks. Getting more and more Red Kites. • Little Owl – bred in 2015 and reared 4 young. • Tawny Owl – the young leave the nest after 4 weeks and cannot fly. • Barn Owl – there were 2 last year. • Nest Boxes – all been cleaned out now and repaired. All set for spring. • Blue Tits – there has been a shortage this year because so many died last year. Only 3 Blue Tits nesting this year. One box had 12 young and they all fledged. All large broods this year. • Blackbird – nested in the rosemary and then the rhubarb. Third attempt was the potting shed and reared 5 chicks. • Barn Swallows – nested in the potting shed. If we do not want them nesting in the shed shut the doors. Swallows nest inside buildings. • Newts – 3 have been found under a pot in the far polytunnel. Marked with red flags to leave them alone. •
<p>9. AOB:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>10. Thanks and Close: John Fluker</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to the directors for making their reports tonight. • Thank you to those who organised this evening including tea and coffee. • Thank you to you all for coming this evening and your continuing support of this wonderful community project. • Finally, thank you for your support during my time as chairman. It has been a pleasure and a privilege. Gavel handed over to Amanda.

