

KINGSBRIDGE IN BLOOM

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Wednesday 11 November 2020 Via Zoom at 6.45pm

Committee Members Present: Graham Price (GP), Jan Alen (JA), Adrienne Benton (AB), John Kinch (JK), Susanne Akam-Smith (SAS), Philip Cole (PC)

Other Attendees: Gill Matthews (GM), Richard Benton (RB), Sue Kinch (SK), Marie Price (MP), Jennie Hayden (JH), Paul Martin (PM), Morwenna Mullen (MM), Dave Dain (DD)

1. Apologies: Alan Purchase, Mary Rossiter, Ruth Benton

2. Previous Minutes: The minutes from the last AGM held 6th November 2019 were agreed as an accurate record. Signing by the Chairman to be arranged.

3. Chairman's Report

I would like to thank the current committee for their hard work and support over the last 12 months. It has been a challenging year for everyone with the dreadful Covid-19 virus. It was no surprise that the RHS cancelled all of their competitions and restricted access to most of their gardens.

The main highlight of the year was to have received the Queens Award for Voluntary Service, an MBE for the group in the Queen's Birthday Honours, just reward for our exceptional contribution to the local community. The presentation for this will be held in May next year.

During lockdown we took the opportunity to prepare for our return to group safe working and were delighted to return as soon as we could to keep the plants and displays looking good throughout the season. I must thank everyone in our group, our sponsors and supporters for their enthusiasm and encouragement throughout the last few months and I am confident that we will come through this together even stronger. The social distancing requirements did not allow us to plant our many hanging baskets which was disappointing, but the other displays have contributed to the town looking good albeit with less planting and reduced maintenance.

Communication is important to ensure that everyone is kept informed and to share and promote our ideas. Over the last year I have continued to send updates, contributed articles in the local media and posted a monthly report on our website.

The lack of judging this year has given us the opportunity to refurbish and replace some of our display hardware such as the Devonshire hay cart and Embankment planters ready for Spring. Additionally, much work has been done to organise our display material for next year as well as procuring and planting for the Winter and Spring. The finances look healthy for the group and we look forward to returning to working towards another golden year in 2021!

Graham Price
Chairman, Kingsbridge in Bloom

4. Treasurer's Report – Attached

5. Acceptance of Audited accounts

The financial statement and audited accounts were agreed as an accurate record. Signing by the Chairman to be arranged.

GP thanked Alan Purchase and Tom Phillips for their contribution. PC gave compliments upon the absolute clarity of the report.

6. Appointment of Auditor:

Tom Phillips is in agreement to be appointed for 2020/21. All were in agreement. GP requested a Thank You letter to be sent to Tom. **Action: SAS**

7. Short social media roundup of the year – slide show by RB

Unfortunately, Ruth was unable to attend the AGM but has agreed for the slide show to be placed on our website for all to view. GM suggested that we arrange another social gathering for this slide show to be viewed. **Action: SAS to arrange.**

8. Appointment of Committee members for 2020/21

Richard Benton chaired this part of the meeting

RB thanked the outgoing Committee for their contribution to KIB over the past 12 months in what has been quite a difficult year with the pandemic restrictions which have been in place. Despite the imposed conditions the public have complimented about how nice the town has continued to look.

Nominations for the 2020/21 committee:

Honorary Officers:

Graham Price - Chairman
Susanne Akam-Smith - Secretary
Alan Purchase – Treasurer

All nominated people were elected unanimously

Others from existing committee willing to stand for re-election:

Jan Alen
Adrienne Benton
Robin Griffin
Anne Balkwill
Mary Rossiter
John Kinch
Philip Cole

Lis Smith – stood down from Social Secretary for 2020/21
No other nominations were received from the floor.

All nominated people were elected unanimously

9. Date of first meeting of new committee: Agreed as 13th January 2021

10.AOB

- The RHS has awarded certificates of recognition to KIB and IYN members for their continued efforts during 2020. GP plans to announce these in the press once he has spoken to all IYN members to ensure that they have received their certificates. PM will put all certificates up on the website.
- A public "Thank You" to GM for her dedication in taking extremely high-quality photos on behalf of KIB. These have been a great help to JH with the window display boards and also for our website.
- It had been witnessed that a Stagecoach bus knocked off one of the new railing planters outside Coaster coffee shop. GP has put in a claim to the company for £52 for damages caused which is currently being reviewed.

Meeting finished at 7:28p.m.