

**WRITTLE GARDEN & ALLOTMENT SOCIETY**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**  
**The Bowling Club, Romans Place, Writtle, CM1 3DJ**

**Minutes**

**1. Apologies for absence**

Ray Raynor and Ivor Smith

**2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 15th November 2024**

The minutes of the 2024 AGM were formally approved.

**3. Matters Arising from the minutes**

1. Purchase of strimmer and borrowing of equipment

The Committee made the decision to stop the borrowing of equipment by members as equipment had either been returned in a poor state or seriously damaged by a few members. In light of this decision, a strimmer was not bought. Consideration will be given to letting members borrow equipment again over the coming year once a more formalised process has been agreed.

2. Coach trip

There appeared to be no interest from members for a coach trip and this, coupled with the increase cost of hiring a coach meant that no trip was organised.

**4. Chair's Report**

- The Annual Show in August went well and numbers of entries and exhibitors were higher than last year despite the poor growing conditions. Thanks were given to all members and their friends and family who helped to make the day a success.
- Allotment site maintenance has improved in recent months thanks to the Probation Service (who have been working at Oxney Green) and to ARU who have been working with the Parish Council to improve The Chase. The Parish Council has appointed a handyman to replace Ike and he has also put in a lot of work to both sites.
- Turnout for the talks was generally 15 – 20 members, all who attended enjoyed the talks.
- Many members have yet to renew their membership for 2025/26. Membership subscriptions were down last year by almost half which is concerning.
- Ginny announced that she would be standing down as Chair and also standing down from various other roles. She said she was happy to continue as Treasurer if elected until a replacement could be found. Options for paying someone to do this are being

considered. Options for paying someone to undertake the secretarial work are also being considered.

## 5. Treasurers Report and Final Audited Accounts

- Our accounts were audited by Kim Fish and are on p3.
- In these audited accounts, the £1908 spent as an improvement last year (painting the hut roof) is being depreciated over 5 years at £381pa.
- The underlying deficit for the society (receipts and payments balance) is £175.85
- Trading Hut income continues to fall year on year after a peak during Covid pandemic.

## 6. Trading Hut Report

- It is disappointing that Trading Hut income continues to fall. Looking at the pattern of income, there was so little trade in August that we will be considering closing the hut for that month in future. The peak months were March, April and June and we will consider opening for longer hours if we have enough volunteers. It is hard to compete with Supermarkets and online retailers such as Amazon as their prices can be lower than our cost-price.

## 7. Election of Committee members for 2024 - 2025

The existing committee members stood down and offered themselves to be re-elected. There were no other people who had put themselves forward to join the committee.

The current Committee members were duly elected by a show of hands:

Chair	No-one appointed
Vice Chair	Maureen Mason
Trading Hut Manager	Ray Raynor
Treasurer	Ginny Craig (standing down 2026 or when paid Treasurer appointed, whichever is sooner)
Deputy Treasurer	Mary Steadman
Event Secretary	Maureen Mason
Membership Secretary	No-one appointed
Committee members	Kevin Baskill Bernard Bridges Dave Rowling

## 8. Appointment of Auditor

Kim Fish was approved as our auditor for the 2025 – 2026 accounts.

## 9. Business Items

### 1. Future of the Society

The future of the society is looking bleak and this is reflected in the fact that only 5 members turned up for this year's AGM. No-one has offered to take on any of the roles that Ginny is stepping down from and no-one has put themselves forward for Committee membership. Without any support from members we have to give serious consideration to winding the society up. The meeting was not quorate therefore no vote could be taken. The Committee will meet in January to discuss this.

### 2. Writtle News

An appeal was made for someone to continue to write the articles for The Writtle News. We are grateful to Sally Brisley for offering to take this on for one year initially.

## 10. Questions/comments from members

### 1. Why was a large willow tree cut down on The Chase?

*All such trees are regularly inspected by tree surgeons appointed by the Parish Council. It is believed that this one was initially crowned to reduce the height and spread of the tree and was subsequently found to be diseased and therefore cut down.*



Audited accounts  
2024 to 25.pdf