

HOLMER GREEN VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

Founded 1944

Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 20th November 2019

Attendees (Committee Members)	David Avery	<i>Committee Member</i>	Pam Barnett	<i>Treasurer (2019)</i>
	Meg Brinton	<i>Secretary</i>	James Cadle	<i>Chairman</i>
	Richard Chantler	<i>Membership Secretary / Trading Store Manager</i>	David Cook / Jan Cook	<i>Treasurers (2020)</i>
	Sylvia Giles	<i>Committee Member</i>	Tony Harper	<i>President</i>
	Michael King	<i>Show Secretary</i>	Linda Meatyard	<i>Talks Organiser</i>
	Terry Owen	<i>Outings Organiser</i>		
Other members:	22			

Agenda	1	Charitable donation
	2	Apologies for absence
	3	Approval of minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2018 Annual General Meeting
	4	Chairman's review of the year 2019 – James Cadle: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview• Membership• Trading Store• Shows• Outings• Talks• Newsletter• Catering.
	5	Treasurer's report – Pam Barnett
	6	Plans for 2020
	7	Proposed subscriptions for 2020
	8	Election of 2020 Committee
	9	Any other business.

1. Charitable donation

James began the meeting by presenting a cheque for £500 to Mark Durn representing the Holmer Green Boys Brigade. Mark gave an outline of how the Boys Brigade operates and said that the VPA donation would go towards the purchase of a used minibus.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Bob Dunning, Dorothy Kirby, John Parslow, Lesley Shayler, and Betty Steen.

3. Approval of minutes of 2018 AGM

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2018 were approved by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

4. Chairman's review of the year 2019 – James Cadle

James presented a review of the VPA's activities in the past year:

Membership: The final membership total for 2019 is 192, including 15 new members. Last year, the figures were 203 and 24 respectively, meaning that the decline in membership continues. James asked members to suggest ideas for boosting the membership in 2020.

Trading Store: James thanked Richard Chantler for managing the Store as well as acting as Membership Secretary, and Dorothy Kirby for her work in organising the Sunday Store rota.

The Store made a small loss in 2019, but that partly reflected the bulk buying of some products which will be sold – and the money recouped – in 2020.

James stressed the range of value of the products available at the Store and urged members to make the most use of it.

The Store is now closed for 2019 and will reopen for business on Sunday 5th January 2020.

Shows and Competitions:

James said that it was encouraging that both shows this year showed strong participation. In the Spring Show, there were 315 exhibits, including 140 in the horticultural classes compared with 415 and 186 in 2018. In the Annual Show there were 445 entries, including 249 in the horticultural classes, compared with 429 entries and 211 in 2018. So, the Spring show was down on last year and the Annual Show was up, which was encouraging overall.

Considering the difficult growing conditions throughout this year, all of this was very creditable.

Michael King was thanked for his hard work in organising the shows.

Michael will publish the photographic categories in the December newsletter, so that members can start thinking about their entries for the 2020 shows.

Outings:

James began by mentioning the sad passing of Don Hide in April 2019. Don had stood down as Outings Organiser at the 2018 AGM and he was sadly missed by everyone who knew him.

James thanked Terry Owen for organising another series of outings since the last AGM:

- In December 2018, there was a visit to the Christmas Fair at Ascot racecourse
- In July, there was an outing to the Knole
- In September, our annual visit to an RHS Garden took us to Hyde Hall in Essex
- Terry had also planned a trip to the Christmas market in Winchester but he learned that two other local organisations were also going there and so he cancelled it.

James remarked that it seemed to be getting harder to get a payload for these trips. Perhaps this reflected the ageing of our membership but, whatever the reason, it was a cause for concern.

Talks:

James thanked Linda Meatyard for organising another enjoyable and interesting programme of talks for 2019.

The August talk was again well attended, so this has now become a permanent feature of the VPA schedule.

Newsletters:

Five newsletters had been produced so far in 2019 and a sixth will be published in early December. James thanked Linda Meatyard and her distribution team for their work in delivering the physical copies and he also thanked Sylvia Giles for her reports on the outings and many of the pictures shown in the AGM slide-show..

Catering: We have somehow struggled through 2019 without a Catering Manager. Despite that, and largely due to heroic efforts by Pam Barnett, we managed to stage a very successful Harvest Home Lunch on 13th October. 64 people attended, including four guests, and we enjoyed an interesting talk on some High Wycombe characters from Mike Dewey.

The event had, however, made a loss this year and that, plus the lack of a Catering Manager, means that it will almost certainly be the last such event.

The other big event was the Garden Party, in July, and James thanked Bob Dunning and John Parslow for hosting it. The weather was OK and we benefitted from the use of a barn to take shelter and enjoy our tea and cakes. This and a few other more minor events raised the £500 that was presented to our charity.

Other matters: Dorothy Kirby had proposed that the 75th Anniversary of the VPA be marked by donating some new benches to the Parish Council for installation on the Common. This was agreed in principle with the Council but has not been completed, partly because the Parish Council has itself been going through some trauma, with several vacancies. It is hoped to complete this project in 2020.

5. Treasurer's Report – Pam Barnett

Pam presented and explained the annual accounts to the membership. These had again been reviewed by Elaine Birchley, who is the Treasurer of the Holmer Green Village Centre and a qualified professional book-keeper.

The Trading Store had made a small profit of £88.66 but this was compensated for by a surplus of £206.06 from other activities. Overall, the VPA had enjoyed a very small surplus of £117.40 for 2019.

The balance sheet showed reserves of £14,420.22, including stock valued at £2,388.00.

James Cadle asked for a proposer that the accounts be approved (Brian Furner); Michael King seconded this and the accounts were approved by the members. Pam was thanked for her hard work as Treasurer.

James then proposed a Vote of Thanks to Pam for her years of valuable service to the VPA. This was seconded by Brian Rogers and unanimously passed. James also presented Pam with a card signed by all of the Committee and some National Garden Gift Vouchers. Finally, James unveiled the new 'Pam Barnett Trophy' which will be awarded for the best jam exhibit in the Annual Show. Since this would have been awarded to Pam at this year's Show, she will look after it until 2020.

6. Plans for 2020

James outlined the plans for 2020:

- The usual two shows are planned for 4th April and 5th September 2020.
- Terry Owen will be canvassing ideas for possible outings in 2020.
- James listed the talks that Linda Meatyard has organised for 2020.
- Finally, James said that the Trading Store would again be kept open in August 2020 (reflecting the fact that most members do not now go on holiday then) but would again close at the end of September.

7. Proposed subscriptions for 2020

Because of the substantial reserves, but also bearing in mind that the organisation only just broke even in 2019 without any major expenses on repairs, James Cadle proposed to keep the 2020 subscription at £6. This was seconded by Richard Barnett and approved by the members.

8. Election of 2020 Committee

Tony Harper took the chair and asked for nominations for Chairman for 2020. James Cadle was proposed by Tony Harper and seconded by Brian Furner and duly elected.

As Pam Barnett was standing down as Treasurer, James Cadle proposed that David and Jan Cook be elected to fill this role. This was seconded by Stuart King and the Cooks were duly elected.

As other members of the Committee were prepared to stand again, James Cadle asked for a proposer (Betty Furner) and seconder (David Cook) for their re-election for 2020. The Committee Members were duly elected on a show of hands:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominee</u>
Secretary	Meg Brinton
Membership Secretary	Richard Chantler
Trading Store Manager	Richard Chantler
Newsletter Editor	(covered by James Cadle)
Talks Organiser	Linda Meatyard
Outings Organiser	Terry Owen
Show Secretary	Michael King
Committee Member	David Avery
Committee Member	Sylvia Giles

9. Any other business

Linda Meatyard asked for volunteers for the tea rota for the monthly talks.

James Cadle asked for more volunteers for the Trading Store rota, as many of the stalwarts are now ageing and unable to fulfil their duties.

Approved **Date.....**