Minutes of Charlbury Garden Society Annual General Meeting

8th October 2026, 7.00 pm to 7.30pm – Memorial Hall

(followed by Harvest Supper)

Committee members Present:	Susan Dunstall, Catherine Goyder, Geoff Holmberg, Geneviève Hug, John Moore, Catrin Weston, Nicola Morgan
Committee members Apologies:	Alison Derham
Society members:	Too many to list! (40+) Apologies received from Nikky Rycroft, Mary & Angus Bentall
Chair:	Nicola Morgan
Minutes:	Catrin Bell

1. Welcome and Apologies

Nicola Morgan welcomed everyone to the 2026 AGM.

Apology received from Alison Derham, our Chair, Nikky Rycroft and Mary & Angus Bentall.

There were too many attendees to mention individually but it was pleasing to see so many members attending.

2. Minutes from AGM of 9 October 2025

Minutes agreed.

3. Matters arising

No matters arising.

4. Officers' reports

4.1 Chair's Report (Alison Derham)

Nicola Morgan presented the Chair's Report on behalf of Alison Derham. The full Report is available on request..

4.2 Treasurer's Report (Catrin Weston)

Catrin presented the Treasurer's Report included at the end of these minutes.

Catrin thanked Geoff Holmberg for his assistance in checking the accounts and preparing the annual financial statement, enclosed with the Treasurer's Report. Nicola Morgan asked for a show of hands to confirm agreement for the proposed donations.

The Membership showed their support, the proposed donations were agreed.

4.3 Events (Catherine Goyder)

CG was pleased with the programme of Events that had been delivered in the last year. These had included:

A number of winter talks, including a composting workshop and a talk on dahlias.

A self- drive visit to Rupert and Amanda's Ponsonby's garden at Sarsden Glebe.

A well subscribed coach trip to RHS Wisley.

Open gardens was a great success with 8 gardens open for Nature recovery including the Priory. More than £2,700 was raised for Street Fair which raises money for the upkeep of the Corner House and Memorial Hall.

4.4 Membership Secretary's Report (Geneviève Hug)

Geneviève presented the Membership statistics:

2026	**2025**	**2024**
219 members	**219 members**	**229 members**
128 joint members	126 joint members	130 joint members
91 single members	93 single members	99 single members

Exactly the same number of members for the two years, 2025 and 2026!

4.5 Show Secretary Report (Nicola Morgan)

Nicola presented the Show Secretary's Report which is available on request.

4.6 Greening Update

Susan Dunstall confirmed that there had not been any major greening projects undertaken this year but anyone with ideas for such a project should let her know for consideration by the Committee.

5. Committee members

Nicola Morgan proposed the following appointments which were approved by Members.

Committee Posts	**2026**	**2027 (agreed)**
President	John Moore	John Moore
President	Geoff Holmberg	Geoff Holmberg
Chair	Alison Derham	Alison Derham
Vice-Chair	Vacancy	Vacancy
Secretary	Alison Derham	Alison Derham

Treasurer	Catrin Weston	Catrin Weston
Assistant Treasurer	Geoff Holmberg	Geoff Holmberg
Membership Secretary	Geneviève Hug	Geneviève Hug
Publicity Coordinator	Alison Derham	Alison Derham
Events Coordinator	Catherine Goyder	Vacancy
Show Secretary	Nicola Morgan	Nicola Morgan
Deputy Show Secretary	Vacancy	Vacancy
Show Cups Co-Ordinator	John Moore	John Moore
Minutes Secretary	Catrin Weston	Catrin Weston
Booking Secretary	Alison Derham	Alison Derham
Greening Projects	Susan Dunstall	Susan Dunstall

6. Any Other Business

None.

7. Date of next AGM: October 2027 – exact date TBA.



Charlbury Garden Society

Treasurer's Report 2026

Introduction

The Committee are very pleased that the Garden Society Continues to thrive and we are satisfied with our financial position. The accounts initially show a significant surplus of approximately £2,000.00 for the year but it should be noted that this surplus does not account for £1,225.00 payment made for the Wisley trip early July. The true surplus for the year is therefore more modest, £817.00.

Income

Our income from membership subscriptions continues to provide sufficient funds for us to support a full programme of events. We did increase our fees in 2026.

Our annual income from subscriptions during 2025 - 2026 was:

£1,780.56

This is in comparison to 2024 – 2025 income:

£1,281.95.

Our income from subscriptions in previous years was:

2021/22	£1,515.78
2022/23	£1,415.83
2023-24	£1,295.66

Our income in subscriptions over the last few years had been showing a slight decrease due to less members, but this was not significant and has been reversed this year.

We continue to be able to fund our full programme of events through our membership subscriptions.

Expenditure

Our main area of expenditure during the year was for our Talks and monthly events. These amounted to £733.00. We are seeing a gradual increase in the charges made by our speakers.

Key events for which we make an additional charge have been fully compensated by the receipts for these due to the high level of attendance. These include the annual dinner after the AGM last year and the Wreath Making workshop. We aim to charge enough to cover our costs but as they were well subscribed, we had a small surplus for both events.

We continue to hold Committee meetings at Members' homes so that these do not incur any expenses.

Key Events

The Plant Swops continue to be popular, although we did not raise as much as in previous years. The two events last year raised £231.18 compared to £417.25 in 2024 - 2025. The 2025 Autumn plant swop was particularly poorly attended so we will not be holding it this year.

The 2026 Spring Show was yet again a success. Organised in conjunction with the Arts Society, the purpose is not for fundraising, so that a deficit is anticipated. There was however a small surplus of £54.93.

Similarly the Annual Show in 2025 was successful, for which we also had a small surplus of £72.49.

The Wreath making workshop last Christmas provided a surplus of £169.41.

The Annual Dinner also provided a surplus of £335.94.

Overall Financial Position

The end of year accounts show a surplus of £2,042.07 but this does not take into account payments made for our coach trip to Wisley which falls in the next financial year. We did however make a small surplus which is £817.07.

The Committee is satisfied that the financial position of the Society remains healthy. The Society's accumulated funds remain fairly constant, being increased by small surpluses and interest on our investment account.

It is our aim to ensure that our membership fees and donations are primarily used for the benefit of our members. We are therefore pleased that in this financial year we are able to commission a great programme of talks and events which we hope everyone will enjoy.

The Society's aim does also include supporting local greening projects to enhance our enjoyment of Charlbury. As part of this, we have been able to support various greening projects which enhance the public areas in Charlbury.

As our funds remain buoyant the Committee propose that we continue to support these projects.

Our pledge for a one-off payment of £500 for the Railway Station Garden a few years ago still stands but has not yet been initiated. Our funds remain sufficient to continue to support this project which it is hoped will be undertaken in 2026/27.

Donations and projects supported by the Society 2025- 2026

At the AGM we agreed to support the following projects which we believed reflect the society's aim of promoting gardening and horticulture in Charlbury, enhancing the enjoyment of Charlbury for our members and the community overall:

Corner House Garden	£150 (payments in 2025-2026 inc funds pledged the previous year from the Wilderness Fund)
Railway Station Garden	£100
Charlbury Primary School	£100
Charlbury Pre-school	£120
Charlbury Museum Garden	£100

Donations and projects proposed for support by the Society 2026 - 2027

It is proposed that if our funds allow, we should make the following donations in the financial year 2026-2027:

Corner House Garden	£100
Railway Station Garden	£100
Charlbury Primary School	£100
Charlbury Pre-school	£120
Charlbury Museum Garden	£100

Membership Fees

Membership fees were increased last year. It has been noted that our fees were very low compared to other Societies and we are now paying more for our Speakers in order to attract professional speakers who can be relied upon to deliver an interesting evening for Members.

Given our financial position we do not consider it necessary to raise fees this year. They will therefore remain at:

Individual membership	£10.00
Joint membership for two adults living in the same household	£15.00

(both individual and joint membership includes membership for any children living in the same household).

Several local garden centres continue to provide members with discounts on production of their membership card and we are able to provide a regular calendar of events for our members.

The Committee therefore hopes that members share their view that membership of the Society still offers good value.

Catrin Weston, Treasurer
October 2026