Broomfield Cottage Gardeners' Society
www.broomfieldcottagegardenerssociety.co.uk

MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2026 AT BROOMFIELD VILLAGE HALL

1. **Welcome from the Chairperson**
   Malcolm Taylor as acting Chairperson welcomed everyone to the AGM

   Extraordinary General Meeting
   In accordance with the constitution, the proposal to convene the AGM on 28th January rather than the scheduled month of February was proposed by the Chairman. This motion was seconded by Les Steed and agreed by those present. The Annual General Meeting then commenced.

2. **Apologies for Absence**
   Received from: Donna Hance, Angie Wild, Lynne Blackburn, Felix de Alwiis Jayasing, Catherine Mintern, Gloria Nichols

3. **Minutes of AGM held on Wednesday 26th February 2025**
   The Minutes had been distributed to members prior to the meeting. There were no matters arising and therefore the minutes were agreed.

4. **Reports from the Chairperson and Committee.**

   The following reports covers the accounting year period October 2024 to September 2025.

   Acting Chairperson's Report

   The Society has had a busy year with a full programme of events. A programme of evening talks, 6 open garden events, a charity plant sale plus of course our summer and spring flower and produce shows of which we are very proud. The Barn also continues to be a key part of our activities, ably managed by Christina and her team of volunteers.

   We've seen a steady increase in numbers of people attending and taking part in events and would like to thank members for their support over the year. However we could really do with some extra committee members to help spread the load. There is no need to take on a specific role but if you came along to our meetings you may feel inclined to volunteer for small adhoc tasks which will reduce the pressure on the rest of us.

   Income and Expenditure
   Draft versions of the balance sheet and income and expenditure for the Society had been circulated at the meeting. Nick explained that the earlier date for the AGM and its proximity to the self assessment deadline meant that the auditor was unable to sign the accounts off in time for the meeting. However he was confident that the overall position of the accounts was fairly close to the figures circulated.

   Overall the Balance Sheet showed an increase of £700 in the Society's assets. On the Trading Account, receipts from the shows and the evening talks were also higher. We are aware that some of our costs will be increasing this year such as printing of the show schedules. Barn turnover was also higher than the previous year and Nick clarified that the change in stock valuation had been included in the Barn trading figures for the years ending September 2024 and September 2025.

Nick reported that the Society had also raised just over £810 for Essex Search and Rescue in 2024/25 and that a cheque would be presented following the AGM.

Membership
Selina reported that membership at the end of September 2025 was 175 which included 21 new members. Current membership stands at 113 with 10 new members so far but we would expect to see that increase throughout the year

Flower and Produce Shows
Christine thanked all the entrants of our two shows in 2025. The standard and quantity of entries was magnificent, considering the once again difficult growing conditions. There were also some new exhibitors last year which was encouraging to see.

She also thanked those who supported and helped with the setting up and running of the shows, for the donations to our raffle and tombola and cakes for refreshments. We really relied on this, having a rather depleted committee that lacks manpower.

Finally Christine urged everyone to keep supporting the shows by taking part, even if it's only with one entry. Without entries there will be no shows!

5. Retiring President

After 12 years Angela Marriage had decided to stand down as President of the Society. She was presented with flowers and a gift voucher in recognition of her contribution to the Society.

6. Introduction of President
Malcolm Deacon was introduced as the new President.

7. **Introduction of Vice-Presidents**
Joyce Ashford, Roger Hardy, Ron Marlow and Phil Richards were introduced as vice-presidents.

8. **Election of Officers** - Malcolm proposed the below Committee Members be accepted:

Chairperson	Vacancy
Secretary	Selina Matthews
Membership Secretary	Sue Hubble
Treasurer	Nick Welch
Show Secretary	Christine Welch & Selina Matthews
Open Gardens Manager	Donna Hance
Community Engagement Manager	Donna Hance
The Barn Manager	Christina Whitby
Talks Manager	Anita Arocker-Place
Website (not a committee member)	Philip Richards

This was seconded by Dick Chapman and passed unanimously.

9. **Selection of Charity for October 2026 to September 2027**
Two charities were proposed – Sanctus and Essex Youth Build. A show of hands resulted in Essex Youth Build being adopted. Our charity for the current year (25/26) is SVP Furniture Project.

10. Any Other Business

Angela Thomson pointed out that the Society would be celebrating 150 years in 2029 and it would be good to recognise this in some way. She suggested exploring the possibility of asking BBC Gardeners Question Time to hold an episode locally. The committee agreed to explore this proposal and will also consider other options for marking such an important milestone.

The storage of archive documents relating to the Society was also raised. It was agreed to investigate the option of storing important historic documents and papers relating to the Society at the Essex Records Office.

The official business of the AGM ended at 8.05 p.m. Claire Rosser then gave a short presentation on Essex Search and Rescue after which she was presented with a cheque for £810.54.