HOLMER GREEN VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION
Founded 1944

Annual General Meeting – Thursday 21st November 2024, 7:45pm

Attendees (Committee Members)	David Avery	*Committee Member*	James Cadle	*Chairman*
	Richard Chantler	*Membership Secretary and Trading Store Manager*	Brian Fisher	*Horticultural Adviser*
	Tony Harper	*President*	Michael King	*Show Secretary*
	Val Owen	*Secretary*		
Other members	15 (see attendance register attached)			

Agenda

1 Apologies for absence
2 Approval of minutes:
- 2023 Annual General Meeting

3 Chairman's review of the year 2024 – James Cadle:
- Overview
- Membership
- Trading Store
- Shows
- Outings
- Talks
- Newsletter
- Catering.

4 Treasurer's report – James Cadle (for David and Jan Cook)
5 Plans for 2025, including subscriptions
7 Election of 2024/25 Committee
9 Any other business.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: David and Jan Cook (Treasurers); Linda Meatyard (Talks Organiser); Alan and Lesley Shayler; Lydia Wilkins; Lynn Wishlade; and Terry Owen (Secretary).

2. Approval of minutes of 2023 AGM

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2023 were approved by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

3. Chairman's review of the year 2023/24 – James Cadle

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

Overview: James reported that the VPA had trundled on during the year. Membership was more or less stable and the shows had been better supported than in 2023.

Membership: The membership to date totals 156 households, including 22 new members this year. This compared with a final total of 159 in 2023.

Trading Store: Under the overall management of Richard Chantler, the Store had been operated by a rota of volunteers each Sunday and James thanked Richard and the volunteers who had taken part in that.

The Store had made a trading surplus in 2024 but this had been wiped out by the need – for safety reasons – to install a new electrical distribution board and this was described in more detail in the Treasurers' report.

The Store is now closed for 2024 and will reopen for business on Sunday 5th January 2025. James said he would say more about this later.

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Shows and Competitions:	The Spring Show was held on 6th April and the Annual Show on 7th September and the number of exhibits in both cases was up on 2023. It was also pleasing that some new names appeared on the trophies this year. Having been disappointed in recent years by the number of junior entries, it was pleasing to report that the junior classes were much better supported this year.
Outings:	Only one outing took place in 2024, to the RHS Wisley on 23nd May. It was organised by Terry and Val Owen, despite them relinquishing their positions as Outings Organisers last year. David Avery also organised a visit to Orchard House, Coleshill on 25th April.
Music on the Common	The VPA took a stand at Music on the Common on 13th July and James thanked all those who donated plants for sale. The sale raised £190 and the Committee decided to donate £100 to the Village Society, for the Jubilee Garden, and another £100 to the Church to assist with repairs to the roof.
Garden Party	To mark our 80th Anniversary, on 23rd June we revived our Garden Party and James thanked Bob Dunning and John Parslow for making their lovely garden in Beamond End available. James also thanked everyone who provided cakes and refreshments. Attendance wasn't as high as hope for, largely because the event coincided with a barbecue at one of the churches.
Talks:	A full talks programme had been delivered in 2024 at the Church Hall in Featherbed Lane. When our planned speaker for October had to cancel, Brian Fisher stepped in and hosted a quiz which was well received by the participants.
Newsletters:	Three newsletters had been produced so far in 2024 and another would be sent out before Christmas.
Catering:	The Committee role of Catering Manager remains unfilled, after some five years now.

4. Treasurer's Report – James Cadle (on behalf of David and Jan Cook)

James presented and explained the accounts to the membership. These been examined and approved by Jim Wilkie, a retired Chartered Accountant.

The full financial report is presented as an Annex to these minutes. The key points were:

- The Trading Store surplus of £1,169.90 in 2024.
- But, a charge of £850 for replacing the distribution board, plus utility charges, insurance and charges for the Zettle card reader resulted in a loss of £188.66 for the year.
- Overall, the VPA made a loss of £1,208.03 in 2024.
- The Association's funds as at 30th September 2024 amounted to £13,899.39.

Michael King proposed that the accounts be accepted, this was seconded by Hilary Hide and was carried on a show of hands.

5. Plans for 2025

James outlined the plans for 2025:

Membership:	Members will be asked to pay their subscriptions from January 2025 and the cost will remain at £6 per household.
Trading Store	The Trading Store will open for 2024 on Sunday 5th January and a rota will be distributed to all those who have volunteered to assist at the Store. Richard Chantler continues to be the overall Trading Store Manager and to be responsible for ordering stock, sometimes in conjunction with other organisations such as the Hazlemere Gardening Club and the Amersham Allotment Association. Prices have inevitably gone up but we continue to offer very competitive prices, which can be viewed on our website.

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Shows:	The Spring Show will be held on Saturday 5th April 2025 and the Annual Show on Saturday 6th September, both in the Village Centre. Michael King is working on the schedule and these will be available in the Trading Store at the end of January 2025. The schedule will also be downloadable from the Show page of the VPA website.
Outings:	Whether the VPA can stage any outings in 2025 depends on someone stepping forward as Outings Organiser. If someone is found, the RHS trip would be to RHS Hyde Hall and ideas are sought for other destinations. One problem nowadays is that people seem more reluctant to undertake coach journeys of more than an hour or two.
Talks:	Linda Meatyard has booked a full programme of talks for 2025, again using the Church Hall as the venue. These can be seen on the VPA website and will be listed in the forthcoming newsletter.
Newsletters:	A Christmas newsletter will be published in December 2024, setting out the plans for the next year.
Catering:	James reiterated the need for someone to step forward and take on the Catering Manager role.

8. Election of 2024/25 Committee

Tony Harper took the chair and asked for nominations for Chairman for 2024/25. James Cadle was proposed by Pam Barnett, seconded by Rita Whitten and duly re-elected on a show of hands.

James Cadle now resumed the chair and announced that all existing Committee Members except David and Jan Cook and David Avery were prepared to stand again. James thanked the Cooks for their service as our Treasurers for the past five years and said that a garden gift token would be presented to them as a token of the VPA's appreciation. Similarly, James thanked David Avery for his work for the VPA and presented him with a garden gift token.

James announced that Jeannette Robertson had offered to take over the role of Treasurer and that she has been working with the Cooks over the change. With this in mind, the following Committee Members offered themselves for election or re-election

Position	Nominee
Secretaries	Terry and Val Owen
Treasurer	Jeannette Robertson
Membership Secretary	Richard Chantler
Trading Store Manager	Richard Chantler
Newsletter Editor	James Cadle
Talks Organiser	Linda Meatyard
Show Secretary	Michael King
Outings Organiser	No nomination
Catering Manager	No nomination
Horticultural Adviser	Brian Fisher

Pam Barnett proposed that the Committee be re-elected, it was seconded by Rita Whitten and the proposal was carried on a show of hands.

9. Any other business

No matters were raised.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:15pm and members socialised over cheese and wine.

Approved …… Date……

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Annex: Treasurers' Report for the Holmer Green VPA AGM – November 2024

We're pleased to present the accounts for the VPA for the year to 30th September 2024 which have been externally examined. The VPA's finances continue to remain stable and the following key points should be noted.

- As we have mentioned before, we believe it is important to show the various aspects of the Association's activities separately and in doing so it is acknowledged that certain items will show a deficit as they are included in the membership fee of just £6, (that's the Talks programme, entry to the Shows and access to the Trading Store).
- However, while the Association's overall finances remain positive, there are a few areas that have changed from last year, namely the loss at the Trading Store and on the main Income and Expenditure which together contribute to the overall reduction in General Funds held. You will see though that our funds held remain at a healthy £13899.
- Interest received from our NS&I investment account has returned to previous levels and was £55.87 this year.
- The VPA's insurance arrangements continue to be with Sports Insure who again remained competitive this year. In the accounts we have continued to spread the cost of Insurance across the various VPA operations including Store stock (which includes the Show cups and trophies).
- Turning to the Trading Store:
    - Income for the Store this year remain consistent with 2023 and amounted to £6174.
    - Other Store costs of £1358 include insurance, Zettle commission on sales, water and electricity costs. Also within this figure was maintenance - it was deemed essential that a new Consumer Unit be installed in the Store at a cost of £850. The utility costs through E-on and Castle Water remain under regular review.
    - The closing Stock this year amounted to £1763 after making provision for written off stock of £400. Prices continue to rise and consequently margins are being squeezed and gross profit at the Store this year was just under 19%. The maintenance and utility costs detailed above resulted in a loss of £188.66 on the Trading Store's overall activities.

- You may recall from last year's Report that the VPA purchased a bench on the common as well as contributing half the cost of a further bench in conjunction with Holmer Green Today. The purchase prices of these benches were shown in last year's accounts but the cost of installation and ongoing maintenance of £450 fell in this financial year. This is part of the £650 shown under Donations in the Income and Expenditure account. There was income from the Plant Sale at Music on the Common of £190 and after discussion your Committee decided to make two donations each of £100 to Holmer Green Village Society and to the roof repair fund at Christ Church – this accounts for the balance of the Donations figure.
- As mentioned above, members are able to enjoy the monthly Talks programme, including refreshments, as well as being able to take part in the two Shows and access the Trading Store all for the price of their membership fee. The cost of these activities is covered in part by profit from the core Trading Store operation, however the capital expenditure on the essential maintenance at the Store has resulted in a net reduction to General Funds of £1208.03. The Committee are not currently aware of any further capital expenditure requirements on the Store that would further impact our funds but will continue to monitor the position going forward.
- The Association's General Funds now stand at £13899.39. £7277 of this is held with National Savings and £4799 on the NatWest account. Stock and the small floats make up the rest.

Therefore, we are pleased to report that the VPA remains in a healthy financial position. As a result of this the Committee have agreed to maintain Membership Fees at their current level of £6 for the coming year.

It has been unfortunate that neither of us is able to attend on a Thursday evening, hence the reason for the Chairman reading this Report. We have used the last five years as Treasurers to update the VPA to online banking and to split out the various aspects of the Association's finances as detailed in the attached accounts. We are therefore confident in passing this role over in good health, to the new Treasurer.

David and Jan Cook
VPA Joint Treasurers

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