

Balsall & District Horticultural Society
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held in Balsall Common Village Hall
on Thursday 27 November 2025 at 7.30pm

President, Edward Cotterrell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Sue and Doug Timmis, Chris Bennett, Leighton Jones, Annette Scott, Val and David Cotterrell and Maggie Smith.

Minutes of the 2024 AGM, which were circulated prior to the meeting, were proposed for acceptance by Marion Keeley, seconded by Jackie Tomnie and accepted by members. There were no matters arising.

Treasurer's report

Helen Jones presented the Treasurer's report. She highlighted that the committee had approved updating of the logo and refurbishing some of the cups presented at the show. She thanked members for buying raffle tickets and contributing and buying plants from the monthly plant stall which all helps towards healthy finances. As a result, subscriptions will stay at £15. We now have a waiting list for membership. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Wendy Jenkinson, seconded by Jane Bostock and accepted by members.

Chairman's report

Ann Fenton began by saying that this was her first and last report as she was moving away from the area. The support the committee has had from members is evident in the great attendance we have enjoyed at our monthly meetings, and in participation in the other society events we have organised throughout the year. Together, at our monthly meetings, we have learned more about a wide range of garden related subjects.

We shared our knowledge and love of gardening at the plant sale in May and the annual show in July and went looking for more inspiration during our garden trip to Bodenham Arboretum and John's Garden at Ashwood Nurseries in June.

None of these events can happen without the energy and commitment of the committee, who Ann thanked on behalf of the members. She also thanked Mary Cotterrell our internal auditor, Judy Lambourne who designed and maintains our website. Margaret Sears and Sue Edwards who are always on hand to help at our events and selling our raffle tickets.

Plus of course a special thank you to Helen Moore and Helen Jones for preparing the delicious buffet – all without access to the usual kitchen facilities here and to Sue for the pate!

Election of Officers

President	Wendy Jenkinson	Proposed by Ann Fenton Seconded by Helen Jones
Chair	Helen Jones volunteered to chair the first meeting	Proposed by Mary Cotterrell

Seconded by Don Lawrence

Treasurer

Helen Jones

Proposed by Alison Watson

Seconded by Ken Shaw

Secretary

Michelle Sutcliffe

Proposed by Angela Shaw

Seconded by Helen Jones

Internal auditor

Johnny Shipton

Proposed by Helen Jones

Seconded by Wendy Jenkinson

Election of committee

Alison Watson, Pet Hawley, Angela Shaw, Helen Goodwin, Sharon Nelson, Jane Bostock, Iain McKenzie

Proposed by Felicity Hill

Seconded by Jackie Tomnie

All of the above were accepted by the members.

Presentation of special recognition award

There were 3 nominations for the RHS Special Recognition Award. The winner of this year's RHS Recognition award is Alison Watson. Ann called for a round of applause for the other 2 nominees Pet Hawley and Sue Edwards.

Alison joined the Society in 1994 and was immediately put in charge of the plant stall and the following year took on the responsibility for booking speakers for our meetings. In November 1998 AGM Alison stepped down from the committee when her husband's job took them abroad for three years. When they returned Alison rejoined the society and the committee taking up where she left off. It is the quality of the speakers that has enabled the Society to thrive over the last thirty years when many other horticultural clubs have closed their doors.

Ann concluded by thanking Edward and Mary Cotterrell for their many years of support to the society and presented them with gifts.

Edward then presented certificates to the winners of cups at the 2025 show.

Wendy also thanked Ann for her positivity and wished her all the best for the future.

Edward closed the meeting with thanks to the committee and in particular Ann, Helen and Alison for their hard work.

Date for the next AGM is 26 November 2026

