

Grayshott Community Orchard Project

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2026)

Wednesday 3rd June 7.30pm – Grayshott Sports Pavilion Lounge

Present

Committee members: Andy Haymes (Chair), Deborah Perrin (Secretary), Ruth Holden, Simon Philp (GPC representative), Carl Taylor

Others: Graham Burgess, Pete Cameron, Michael Eastley, Bob Greggs, Trish Greggs, Chris Haymes, Sandra Kinnear

Welcome from the Chair

AH welcomed all present.

Apologies

Jenny Barrett
Bea Jennings
Angela Raine

Minutes of the Previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM on 9 June 2025 were approved (proposed by Bob Greggs, seconded by Michael Eastley).

Report from Officers

Chair

AH summarised the Chair's report which had been made available on GCOP's website ahead of the meeting and provided to all attendees on arrival. AH also expressed profound thanks to Bob Greggs, Graham Burgess and Piers Cooke-Yarborough for their contributions to the organisation over the previous few years.

Treasurer

AH summarised the income and expenditure during the year (summary report made available on website ahead of the meeting and provided to all attendees on arrival). The total income for the period (6 April 2025 to 5 April 2026) was £11,095. The most significant contributions were:

- three grants totalling £4,702 from Hidden Gardens of Grayshott, Hampshire County Council and East Hampshire District Council
- £3,315 from three fundraising events (Hidden Gardens of Grayshott, quiz night and Xmas market), and
- £1,465 from donations.

The total expenditure for the period was c.£10,468 with the largest items being:

- £3,775 for two information boards
- £2,834 for three picnic tables, and
- £1,200 for fundraising events.

The resulting surplus of income over expenditure was £627.

(All figures above are quoted to the nearest £.)

The report was accepted (proposed by Ruth Holden, seconded by Simon Philp).

Action: DP to secure signed copy of Treasurer's report from AH

Constitution

The proposed new constitution had been made available on GCOP's website ahead of the meeting and provided to all attendees on arrival.

AH explained that since the initial constitution was established, GCOP has acquired c.£11,000 worth of fixed assets (e.g. trees, noticeboards, benches and picnic benches) and currently has c.£4,000 cash in the bank. As an unincorporated association, these assets belong to the committee members. Separate to that, after a few years in place, it had become clear that some aspects of the existing constitution needed clarifying as whilst it defined a lot of the 'what', it was less clear on some of the 'how'. Richard Lyon (the first secretary of GCOP who led on defining the initial constitution) was asked to provide an options paper for the way forward. AH

also did a paper independently. Both papers recommended becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), a legal structure specifically designed for charities in England and Wales, providing them with their own legal identity and limited liability for trustees. The proposed constitution is based on a template from the Charities Commission (CC) and therefore covers some scenarios which are possible but highly improbable. It was also noted that it has gone through a number of drafts ahead of the AGM and been fully reviewed by the Committee. It was also presented to and discussed with Grayshott Parish Council who have indicated they have no objection to its adoption.

The meeting discussed the proposed document with several points being raised including:

- TG observed that there is a lot of jargon in the document. AH agreed and said it was all driven by the CC's template.
- A question was asked by BG about when clause 9, 4(a) (iii) (page 6) would be invoked. The clause states that a person's membership must be terminated if "any sum of money owed by the member to the CIO is not paid in full within six months of its falling due". AH explained that it won't be invoked as long as GCOP charges no membership fees.
- PC asked if the organisation covers liabilities in case of accidents. AH said it does as it has the required insurance cover (employers' liability and public liability insurance).

In response to a question from BG, AH explained that the principal benefits to the orchard of becoming a CIO are:

- Clarity of process
- Protection of assets
- Access to funds that require the applying organisation to be a charity
- Ability to claim Gift Aid
- Contracts are currently run by the Committee members so, for example, any liability arising from a contract lies with the Committee members. The CIO as a legal entity will have an ID in its own right so such liability will lie with the organisation not individuals.

AH proposed adoption of the new constitution which was seconded by SK. There was a unanimous show of hands in support of its adoption.

Election of Committee Members

The following indicated they wanted to stand for election/ re-election to the Committee:

- Andy Haymes
- Chris Haymes
- Ruth Holden
- Deborah Perrin
- Carl Taylor

TG noted that the constitution states that no one can hold two offices and asked how that would be managed in the absence of a current Treasurer. AH explained that neither he nor DP are acting as Treasurer formally, they are just authorising payments when due. The Committee is actively seeking a Treasurer.

All at the meeting indicated agreement with the Committee nominations and the named five people were duly elected.

AOB

Hidden Gardens of Grayshott (HGoG): BG asked if the orchard would participate in the next HGoG in 2027. AH explained that it is yet to be discussed by the Committee, but the probability is that it will.

Events: SK enquired if another quiz night will be held. AH said that, like HGoG, the matter is yet to be discussed by the Committee but there is a strong likelihood that another one will be held but probably not this year.

The meeting closed at 2011h.