

Draft Minutes of The Green Gram Annual Members' Meeting

Sunday 13th September 2026, 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Avonway West Room

Present: 34 Members and 6 non-Members. 46 Members sent their apologies of which 27 voted in advance (all in favour of all resolutions)

Declarations of Interest : none

- 1. Welcome by Chair** - Paul Harding welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the business to be conducted.
- 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting** – were approved as set out and there were no matters arising.

3. Management Committee Reports –

Wendy Reid gave a presentation on her work as Outreach Co-ordinator (slides available on the website). She spoke about her engagement with youth groups, schools, adult groups, local events, demonstration evenings, competitions organised and recruitment and supervision of young volunteers. The number of engagements and people involved has grown significantly but Wendy also spoke of her plans for further engagement in the coming year, particularly for hard-to-reach groups.

Jo Anderson gave a presentation about her work as manager, including a summary of new products and their environmental credentials. She focussed on Overherd Oat Milk Powder and Up Circle moisturiser and sun cream. She also explained why the Committee had decided to revise the Aims to broaden them to include the awareness of the impact of cleaning products and toiletries on our health and environment and to encourage a healthy diet. She spoke warmly of the role played by the more than 50 volunteers including those who support in ways other than serving in the shop. (presentation available on the website).

Helen Harding gave a presentation on the financial position including the top selling products by value and weight but also those products which make up our most popular transactions. She was able to demonstrate that the shop is more than covering its costs and has sufficient reserves to cover unforeseen circumstances. Helen also spoke about the amount of plastic saved from landfill since the shop opened and in the past year of trading. She also linked her comments to Jo's comments on Oat Milk by showing the number of Tetrapak containers saved since Oat Milk has been offered in the shop. (presentation is available on the website).

4. Annual Accounts

The Accounts for year ending 31st March 2026 had been circulated with the Agenda, and there being no questions it was **proposed and seconded that they be adopted and this was carried unanimously.**

The Chairman explained that, given the size of the society, it is more cost effective to have an independent examination of the accounts than a full audit. It was therefore **proposed and seconded that the requirement for a full professional audit of the 2026-2027 accounts be waived, and to appoint a qualified accountant to carry out the independent examination of the year end accounts, and this was carried unanimously.**

5. **Member report** - The Chair reported that there are currently 228 Members with 3 new Members in 2025/26. There are no current plans for a further share offer, but should the new Society Rules be adopted later in the agenda, they will allow new Members to join at any time.
6. **Proposed Update to Society Model Rules** – the proposals are required in order to keep up to date with changing legislation and the details had been circulated with the agenda prior to the meeting. The main change would mean that each Member’s shareholding will become a £1 non-refundable “Membership Share” whilst their remaining holding becomes a “Community Share” which is refundable at the discretion of the Management Committee in line with the Society’s rules.

It was proposed and seconded that the new rules be adopted and this was carried unanimously.

It was further proposed and seconded that the committee be authorised to submit the new rules to the Financial Conduct Authority, this was also carried unanimously.

7. **Elections** – The Chair expressed his gratitude to the Committee for their support and time given willingly to ensure that the Society is well governed, financially sustainable and continues to deliver benefits to the community. He commented that new ideas, different perspectives and a broad range of skills were always welcome and encouraged those present to consider joining the Management Committee in future.

As Sue Woolcott is stepping down from the Committee, Paul took a moment to thank her for her significant contribution since the idea of the shop was first mooted. Those present showed their appreciation to Sue.

The Committee members retire by rotation at the AMM but are eligible to stand for re-election and the following people have indicated that they wish to do so:

Tania Baker

Helen Harding

Paul Harding

Judith Plumley

Suzanne Simmons

Louise Tonkin

Ann Dennis has a further year before being eligible for re-election.

It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that those standing for re-election be duly elected until they retire in accordance with the Society’s Rules.

8. **Grants** – The Society is able to offer grants to the local community from any surplus funds generated each year.

12 applications had been received and a sub-committee set up to make recommendations to the AMM. Following due diligence, it was proposed that seven grants be awarded to the following community groups:

	Organisation	Project	Amount requested	Amount Recommended
1.	1 st Fordingbridge Scouts	Replacement cookery utensils	£200	£200
2.	Breamore School	Pond plants and wildlife homes for refurbished pond	£250	£250
3.	Damerham Tea and Chat	Purchase of Gazebo	£61	£61
4.	Fordingbridge Turks (Minis)	Purchase of mini goals	£267	£267
5.	Making Memories Matter	Purchase of craft resources etc.	£1171	£250
6.	The Branch	Facilitator for post natal group	£500	£250
7.	Western Downland School	Nest Cameras	£200	£200
			Total	£1478

After a short description of each grant, it was **proposed and seconded that the recommendation of the Committee be adopted and the grants awarded accordingly.**

9. **Any Other Business** - There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.41pm