

Slimbridge Horticultural Society

Minutes of the A.G.M. held at the Village Hall, 10th January 2012

Present: D.Porter (Chairman); L.Dibley (Treasurer); C.Jeffes (Secretary); and 35 members:

G. Baker; P. & A. Ballard; G. Fryer; S. Gibson; N. Handford; D. Hall; V. Tarr;
D. & S. Hatcliffe; N. & C. Howarth; B. Howell; T. Lees; L. Porter; B. Wherrett;
P. Sealey; D. & P. Tarr; G. Tarr; J. Merrett; P. Lewis; S. Howard; P.Koole;
C. Archer; R. & A. Clift; K. Webb; A. & E. Jones; A. & S. Carter; M. Weeks;
There was 1 visitor: C. Greenwood

1. Confirmation of Peter Ballard as our new President

Proposed – The committee Seconded – D. Hall Elected by 34 votes with 5 abstentions.

2. Apologies

J. Russell-Yarde; V. Harding; S. & S. Heathfield; G. Edwards; M. Clark; J. & D Jones; S. Ward; T. Standing.

3. Minutes of A.G.M 12th January 2011

The minutes for 2011 were signed as correct.

Proposed – D. Porter Seconded – G. Baker

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Correspondence

The Secretary had received a letter from B. Howell resigning her post as representative to the Village Hall due to other commitments. She asked that members attend the AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee on 22nd February 2012. The Secretary also received a letter from J. Strong advising that she will no longer be a member of the Society.

Information was received from David Hunt concerning the Slimbridge Festival activities. A planning meeting is to be held regarding this event on 16th January 2012 and P. Ballard requested that a member of the new committee attend to represent the Society.

There were several written requests for voting by proxy for the position of Chairman. This subject was debated but the matter was not resolved.

6. Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and said it was good to see that members were interested in the workings of the society.

He then went on to say that we have enjoyed a fairly good year with interesting evenings and outings, including talks on 21st century smallholding, ponds, garden design, what Judges look for when showing and colour in the winter garden. He thought the trip to RHS Wisley was very well organised and supported although

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numbers were boosted by non club members being able to come at a bargain price due to lack of internal interest.

C. Jeffes and her team of growers were congratulated on winning the Berkeley Show Federation tray competition Gold Award and P. Ballard was also congratulated for scooping the top prize at the new Federation Sweet Pea Show.

He reflected that as we enter our 70th year we face many new challenges but he is certain that the Gardening Club in Slimbridge will survive for many years to come. He thanked the committee and members for their support over the last year, especially those retiring from office. L. Dibley for doing an extra year as Treasurer, and D. & S. Hatcliffe for years of dedication to the Society.

7. Treasurer's Report

	£
Funds at 30 November 2010	1651.29
Deficit 2011	144.77
Funds at 8 January 2012	1.506.52

The Treasurer reported that the deficit for 2011 of £144.77 was due mainly to the purchase of The Vera Macaulay Cup at a cost of £103.01 which was paid for with a donation included in last years funds.

Membership was down to 41 members of whom 7 were new, generating an income of £291.00 in 2011 as opposed to £357.00 in 2010.

The Society received £96.00 in donations. Bulb sale commission from Simply Tulips netted £11.31. Prize money from The Berkeley Show was £50.00.

The plant sale made £29.55 against £19.60 in 2010. Sales of member's plants at meetings made £9.30. There was a surplus of £42.00 from the coach trip.

The main expense was the meetings which rose to £462.00 with an income from the raffle and visitor fees of £152.00 resulting in a net cost of £310.25. The Spring Show made a loss of £2.49 and the Summer Show a loss of £10.72 which is a great improvement on last year mainly due to the increase in entry fees. It is evident from these figures that new members are needed.

David Hunt was thanked for stepping in as an independent auditor following the death of the long serving Gordon Tudor.

She concluded by saying that the cost of meetings and the loss of membership needed to be addressed.

She then invited questions.

It was declared that the annual subscription to the Society should be £8.00

Proposed – D. Porter Seconded – G. Tarr Agreed unanimously

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8. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Nominees:

Chair - David Porter (current) George Baker Sue Gibson

The matter of proxy and postal votes was raised again. The President declared that it be disallowed at this meeting, as it is not written into the constitution. A vote would be taken at the end of the meeting to establish whether it should be included in the constitution for 2013.

Votes for Chairman were cast by ballot.

Refreshments were served.

G. Fryer stated that the votes were cast before he was given an opportunity to speak on behalf of the candidates as he had been promised. The vote was declared invalid. G. Fryer went on to list the points in favour of each candidate.

A new vote was taken.

D. Porter - 3 G. Baker - 23 S. Gibson - 10 Abstentions - 2

Chair - G. Baker Proposed - G. Tarr Seconded - G. Fryer Elected

Vice-Chair - S. Gibson Proposed - D.Hall Seconded - S. Hatcliffe Elected

9. Election of Officers and Committee

The following officers, holders of other posts and general committee were elected unanimously.

Treasurer - D. Hall

Proposed - S. Gibson Seconded - G. Baker

Secretary - C. Jeffes

Proposed - N. Griffiths Seconded - G. Fryer

Show Secretary - N. Griffiths

Proposed - G. Tarr Seconded - P. Lewis

Social Secretary - Ronnie Harding

Proposed - D. Hall Seconded - N Griffiths

Programme Secretary (vacant)

Honorary Auditor - L. Dibley

Proposed - P. Ballard Seconded - A. Ballard

General Committee - Phil Sealey; Alan Carter; Lynne Porter

Slimbridge Village Hall Representative - to be elected at the committee meeting

Gloucestershire Federation of Garden societies (GFGS) " "

Slimbridge Horse Show Representative - Sue Gibson

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10. Election of New Vice-Presidents

Vice-Presidents - D. & S. Hatcliffe

Proposed – D. Porter Seconded – P. Ballard Elected unanimously

Vice-President - G. Tarr

Proposed – G. Fryer Seconded – G. Baker Elected unanimously

11. Members' Pot Plant Competition

Prizes were awarded to:

1 st	Carole Jeffes	21 points
3 rd	George Baker	19 points
3 rd	Norma Griffiths	19 points

12. Any Other Business

- a. S. Gibson proposed a vote of thanks to S. & D. Hatcliffe for all their work and dedication over the years.
- b. The name Slimbridge Horticultural Society to be changed to Slimbridge Gardening Club.
Proposed – S. Gibson Seconded – G. Baker
The proposition was carried by 21 votes for to 4 against with 6 abstentions.
- c. The name Slimbridge Gardening Club to be changed to Slimbridge Gardening Society.
Proposed – Mr Gifford Seconded - D. Porter
The proposition was defeated by 15 against to 9 for. The new name is to be Slimbridge Gardening Club.
- d. A. Griffiths proposed that the constitution be changed to include postal and proxy votes when elections are taking place. This was seconded by G. Baker. But C. Greenwood said safeguards would need to be put in place. Another discussion followed. D. Porter proposed that the idea be dropped as the situation was unlikely to occur again. This was seconded by J. Merrett. The proposition was carried by 24 votes for to 3 against.
- e. The Secretary said that in the future the refreshments are to be prepared on a rota system. A form was passed around for people to sign up.
- f. Members were advised that the 2012 annual outing is to R.H.S. Rosemoor on 7th July.
- g. S. Gibson reminded members that at next meeting on 14th February she will be demonstrating how to make willow ring plant supports and seed sowing. She asked members to bring compost and seeds to exchange in the "Seed Swap". P.Koole suggested that members help with the hedge planting on 28th January

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which is taking place at Rectory Farm for 2- 4pm, to gain practical experience and possibly introduce new members to the club.

- h. A vote of thanks was proposed by B. Howell for D. Porter, for stepping in as Chairman in 2011 when the post was vacant.
- i. P. Ballard declared that he wished to resign as President for personal reasons.
- j. The new Chairman G. Baker thanked members for their support. He also thanked D. & P. Tarr for running the raffle at meetings and shows, N. Griffiths for organising the shows and N. Handford for his work on the Club's Website. He said the new Spring Show and Events Programme would soon be available and that he welcomed member's ideas and suggestions and hoped the Club would continue to grow in strength.
- k. L. Porter stated that she wished it to be recorded in the minutes that she felt it was unfair that only one person in the election for Chairman was able to speak in favour of the candidates.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed as a correct record.....Dated.....