

Slimbridge Gardening Club

Minutes of the AGM held at the Village Hall

Tuesday 14th January 2014 at 7:30pm

Present: G. Baker (Chairman); D. Hall (Treasurer); C. Jeffes (Secretary); P. Sealey; N. & A. Griffiths; R. Harding; E. Fullard; D. Tarr; S. & T. Larkham; A. Hunt; G. Edwards; C. Howarth; N. Handford; J. Russell-Yard; G. Tarr; A. Carter; P. Ballard; D. & S. Purkis; J. & J. Harris; S. Gibson; D. & L. Porter; R. Panes; S. Panes; J. Merrett; P. Lewis; G. Fryer; C. Beattie; H. Green; C. Pindry; L. Ryemill.

1. Apologies

E. & A. Jones; F. Neal; A. Shillitoe; M. Tarr; S. & D. Hatcliffe; J. Chandry; M. Weeks.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 8th January 2013

The minutes having been circulated and read to the members present, were signed as a correct record of the meeting.

Proposed – G. Baker

Seconded - N. Griffiths

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Correspondence

None.

5. Chairman's Report

G. Baker read his annual report a copy of which is attached.

“As Chairman I am pleased to present my report for 2013.

It was a good year overall, we had 7 meetings with speakers covering various areas of horticulture. I am however concerned at the reducing number of members attending meetings, one meeting as low as 12 with an average of 20.

Although the raffle usually finances the refreshments, a meeting costs approximately £100, that is an average of £78 for the speaker including travel and £22 for the hall hire.

A couple's membership at present is only £8 per year, that is just 57p per meeting per member, so with say only 12 members attending a meeting is an income of £6.84 with an outgoing of around £100, so you can see my concern.

Our spring and summer member's garden competition for the Mike Haynes and Ada Tarr cups attracted the usual few entries. The judge who kindly gives his services free of charge complimented the entrants on the high standard of their gardens giving him a problem in the summer competition resulting in 2 joint winners.

The spring and summer shows, as usual were a great success attracting the usual high quality entries in all classes. Unfortunately the judges now charge a mileage fee due to the high cost of fuel which adds to our overhead costs.

I would like to thank Norma our Show Manager for all her hard work on the shows, I am convinced she runs on Duracell batteries. My thanks also to Ronnie, Sally and Terry who toil in the kitchen ensuring the judges and committee are fed and watered and there are home made mouth watering refreshments available to our welcome visitors in the afternoon. Also on my thank you list are committee and non committee helpers who come along days before the shows to set up tables, space allocation, decoration and so on.

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Our annual trip was to Aley hall, Gardens and Festival up in Cheshire, everyone was delighted with the day and I was delighted we filled all 49 seats on the coach.

On our financial side I am pleased we made a profit albeit small £36.95 better than a loss.

Diana our treasurer will give her report next on the nitty gritty of the pennies.

As most of you know this is my last meeting as Chairman, I have enjoyed my reign but my body is telling me to pack up due to health and of course approaching middle age.

May I thank everyone who have supported me over the many years and to those I have upset in the execution of my duty who have not supported hard luck you can't win them all.

I ask you please support your new Chairperson and Committee and club events, this is your 72 year old gardening club, please ensure it lives on.

Thank you!"

6. Treasurer's Report

Diana handed out the accounts sheet for the year and reported that with costs going up we have spent £113 more than last year. Takings were down at the Plant Sale. P. Ballard suggested that the event was poorly advertised and that we should try to attract more people this year. There have been problems placing advertisements in the Gazette, which have been addressed. Prize money won at the Berkeley Show was shown and G. Tarr thanked C. Jeffes for entering the Club in the Top Tray Competition. The accounts sheet showed we have £1,503.83 in the bank and £103.00 cash in hand with a profit of £36.95 but this does not include the cost £68 for the printing of the Spring Show Schedule which will be shown in the 2014 accounts.

7. Elections

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

| | Proposed | Seconded |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Chairman – Carole Jeffes | N. Griffiths | D. Hall |
| Vice Chair – Norma Griffiths | G. Baker | D. Hall |
| Secretary – Phil Sealey | C. Jeffes | N. Griffiths |
| Treasurer - Diana Hall | N. Griffiths | G. Baker |
| Committee – Alison Hunt | C. Jeffes | D. Hall |
| Show Secretary – Norma Griffiths | P. Lewis | C. Jeffes |
| Programme Secretary – Ronnie Harding | N. Griffiths | G. Baker |
| Social Secretary – Ronnie Harding | N. Griffiths | G. Baker |
| Auditor – Linda Dibley | G. Baker | N. Griffiths |
| Village Hall Representative – George Baker | | |

8. Member's Pot Plat Competition

Prizes were awarded to:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1 st | Carole Jeffes | 27 points |
| 2 nd | George Baker | 21 points |
| 3 rd | Norma Griffiths | 15 points |

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9. Any Other Business

- C. Jeffes thanked G. Baker for all his hard work and dedication as Chairman and proposed he be made a Vice President; this was seconded by N. Griffiths, but he has previously been made a Vice-President so no vote was taken.
- P. Lewis proposed that the subscription to the Club should rise to cover increasing costs. G. Baker seconded this view saying the subscription should rise to £10 per household in 2015. The vote was carried unanimously.
- G. Fryer suggested that the Club needs to economise to survive. As speakers are a major expense he proposed that the amount spent on them should be limited. G. Baker stated that we already try to do this and some members give talks to the Club at no charge.
- The point was raised that in the past we have donated any excess funds to charity. Unfortunately at present we are no longer in position to do this. A vote was taken against donating money and carried. 2 members were for donation.
- P. Ballard stated that he will be retiring in June from the committee of the GFGS and his replacement will need to be found.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the AGM closed at 8:05pm.

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