

## Slimbridge Gardening Club

### Minutes of the AGM held at the Village Hall Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Carole Jeffes (Chairman), Mary Sealey (Secretary) Judy Chandra (Treasurer), George Tarr (President), George Baker (Vice President).

Norma Griffiths, Rose Clift, Alison Hunt, Ronnie Harding, Phil Sealey (Committee Members).

Sandra Harris, Bob Harris, D. Purvis, Alun Griffiths, Michael Clift, Enid Fullard, Lynn Porter, Dave Porter, Gillian Polak, Lindsey Evans.

#### **1. Apologies**

Christine Eveleigh, John Mace, Joyce Mace.

#### **2. Minutes of the AGM held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

The minutes having been circulated were signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

Proposed: G. Baker                      Seconded: N. Griffiths

#### **3. Matters arising**

Carole Jeffes drew attention to the auditor's recommendation at the last AGM to appoint a Deputy Treasurer and Rose Clift has been fulfilling this role during the past year.

#### **4. Correspondence**

None received.

#### **5. Chairman's Report**

My second year as Chairman of the Gardening Club has raced by and on the whole it has gone well, although it has not been without its challenges. Our membership is gradually increasing and Ronnie has provided us with a varied and entertaining programme of events, including a delightful look at vintage garden tools with John and Carole Matthews. In March, Chris Evans inspired us with his enthusiasm when talking about his Butterfly Garden Charity and who could resist Mike Seel's Auricula's or Gill Hazel's Gladioli. We held our visit to members' gardens in July and despite the weather we had a lovely evening exploring the gardens which concluded with welcome refreshments provided by Judy. In September, Sue Applegate gave us a fascinating insight into the work of the fresh produce industry and finally in November we were put in the festive spirit by Gloria Pritchard with her lovely Christmas flower demonstration. Sadly after 3 years in the post of Programme Secretary and Social Secretary, Ronnie has decided to stand down and I would like to thank her for her dedication and hard work. Norma has agreed to take on the role, but we shall all be sharing the load as I am sure Ronnie will agree it is a lot for one person to manage.

I would like to thank Norma for organising our outing to Spetchley Park and Jon Massey's Garden at Ashwood Nurseries, which was a treat. Norma is standing down as Show Secretary and Phil and Mary Sealey with the help of their daughter Katherine have kindly agreed to take on the role.

Due to several factors our shows are not attracting as much interest as we would like, so we have been looking at ways to try to improve this situation. We will be working with the local school and the scouts to try to find ways to inspire more young people to take part. One way to attract more exhibitors may be to open the shows up to non-members. Non-members will be able to enter the Spring Show this year; they will be charged a higher entry fee than members. There will also be plants for sale at the Spring Show. As the Horse Show and the Summer Show fell on the same date last year the idea of amalgamating the two was explored. There were many benefits but also a few obstacles, the main one being our lack of a marquee in which to hold the show. We will look at the idea again for 2017. As you may be aware the village has

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received some money from the Solar Fund, and on behalf of the Gardening Club, I would like to ask the Parish Council to apply for some adequate lighting to be installed in the Village Hall car park. A solar powered streetlight may be the answer.

Finally I would like to thank the members of the committee and everyone who has worked so hard over the past year to continue to make this Club a success.

#### **6. Treasurer's Report**

Judy Chandra gave the following report of the Club's finances:-

- Current bank balance £1992.48 (last year £1948.87) which makes a profit on year of £43.61 against a loss the previous year of £341.04.
- Speaker charges continue to increase with only one meeting making a profit throughout 2015. The total loss for meetings was £402.77 (loss the previous year £476.85)
- The Spring Show made a loss of £112.61 (loss the previous year £53.19)
- The Summer Show made a profit of £88.50 (profit the previous year £160.80)
- The outing made a profit of £179.00 (profit the previous year £170.50)

George Baker asked why the Spring Show made a loss and Carole Jeffes said it was not well supported with entries being down and less people through the door.

#### **7. Elections**

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

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Chairman – Carole Jeffes	Alison Hunt	Phil Sealey
Vice Chairman – Norma Griffiths	George Baker	Sandra Harris
Secretary – Mary Sealey	Alison Hunt	Norma Griffiths
Treasurer – Judy Chandra	Lindsey Evans	Phil Sealey
Show Secretaries – Mary & Phil Sealey	Judy Chandra	Alison Hunt
Programme Secretary – Norma Griffiths	Mary Sealey	Alison Hunt
Committee Members: - Phil Sealey		
	Alison Hunt	
	Rose Clift	
	Ronnie Harding	
	Chris Eveleigh	
Village Hall Representative – George Baker		
Honorary Auditor – Linda Dibley		

#### **8. Members' Pot Plant/Produce Competition**

Prizes were awarded to: -

1 <sup>st</sup>	Carole Jeffes	19 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	George Baker	16 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Norma Griffiths	15 point

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**9. Any Other Business**

George Baker proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and members of the Committee for all their work during the past year. He also paid tribute to Norma Griffiths for all her hard work as Show Manager.

Ronnie Harding expressed concern over the lack of lighting to the Village Hall Car Park and informed that there was an accident after the Club's AGM in 2015 when John Harris fell and subsequently had to have an operation. George Baker said he had submitted a report on this incident to the Village Hall Committee and some discussion ensued on whether lighting of the lane was the responsibility of the Village Hall Committee, the Parish Church or the Parish Council. Ronnie Harding proposed that all the organisation work together to address the situation.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the AGM closed and introduced the speaker, Rod Wells from the Gloucestershire Federation of Garden Societies.

Signed as a true record ..... ..