

Melksham Gardeners' Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Tuesday 28th March 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Barbara Cropp, Chair
Martin Hopkins, Treasurer
Cary Hopkins, Secretary
Bryan Colby, Admin Secretary
Janey Cox, Committee Member
Sandra Varney, Committee Member

Society Members as marked in the Attendance Register

Apologies: Peter Renshaw, Committee Member
Teresa Strange, Committee Member

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence
 - Barbara opened the meeting at 7.30pm. Member apologies were assumed and accepted.
2. Confirmation that the Minutes of the last AGM, Tuesday 29th March 2016, are a true record
 - The minutes were approved as an accurate record.
3. Chair's Annual Report (Barbara Cropp)
 - We march into our 9th year since we were resurrected as the Melksham Gardeners' Society and many members have been with us since the beginning (so we must be doing something right) and we have also gained new members year on year. Last year our membership was a healthy 75 with approximately 40 members coming to each meeting.
 - We had a good range of speakers last year: from Ray Broughton's ketchup talk, through to how to make compost and wormeries from Mike Burgess and how to create a Chelsea Garden from Rob Dawson – all in their own ways interesting and informative and I hope you all enjoyed them as much as I did.
 - Our Coach Trip last year was to the Sir Harold Hillier Garden and although the weather was not sunshine all the way, it was pleasant enough for those of you who came with us to eat outside and enjoy the beauties of the garden along with the slightly off the wall sculptures.
 - We went to the Old Rectory at Doynton for our June evening meeting. Unfortunately, the weather was very inclement but it is a really beautiful garden and will have an open day in early this June – which I will remind you of – so if the weather is better this year, I would urge you to go.
 - Our Garden & Produce Show was held in September as usual. We had a very good turn out, and were supported once again by the Countrywide Store. The winner of Best in Show, and the £50.00 garden voucher, was Mick Company.
 - Our seed order was well supported this year and thanks again go to Bryan for collating it all and making sure we all had the correct seed packets ready for this summer's sunshine.
 - My last job is to thank the two retiring members of the Committee – Teresa Strange, who has been on the committee since day one but now feels she cannot commit so

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much time to the Society, and also Peter Renshaw. Also, thanks go to the remaining members of the committee and all the members who help in their various ways to make this a thriving and growing Society, and hopefully we are looking forward to another interesting year to come.

4. Treasurer's Annual Report (Martin Hopkins)

- The bank balance for the past year to end of March 2017 saw a healthy financial outcome and stands at £3,768.18. We made a £295.99 operating profit. We are in a pretty healthy state and I see no reason to increase membership costs for the next 2 years.
- Income was £3,487.38 generated from: 75 annual memberships fees and admission charges, tea & coffee sales, raffle sales and donations plus grants totalling £400 from Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council
- Expenditure was £3,191.39 and covered all items including show costs, coach trip, garden visit, speakers and incidentals, e.g. tea/coffee/raffle prizes.
- During the year, we purchased a hot water boiler to assist in club nights and give John a rest from coming in early to put the kettle on!
- However, we did make a loss on the Annual Show, summer Coach Trip and the Garden Visit but this is why we pay our membership fees and ask for the grants, otherwise we would not be in business for much longer!
- I have asked Barbara and the committee to look at other events for club members because we have plenty of money. If you have any ideas then please let us know.
- Copies of the audited accounts were available for members' inspection.

5. Election of Officers and Committee

- The current Officers and Committee stood down.
- Proposed Committee:

- Barbara Cropp	Chair
- Martin Hopkins	Treasurer
- Cary Hopkins	Secretary
- Bryan Colby	Admin Secretary
- Janey Cox	Committee Member
- Sandra Varney	Committee Member
- There were no other proposals for the Committee/Officers.
- The new officers and committee were voted in by show of hands from members.

6. Any other business

- Martin reiterated the request for ideas for other events that members would be interested in.
- There being no further business the Chair closed the Annual General Meeting at 7:45pm.