

Melksham Gardeners' Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Tuesday 27th March 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: 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: Barbara Cropp, Chair

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence
 - Bryan opened the meeting at 7:30pm. He requested of the membership if he could continue with the AGM without Barbara. It was agreed that he could.
 - We all wished Barbara a speedy recovery.
 - Member apologies were assumed and accepted.
2. Confirmation that the Minutes of the last AGM, Tuesday 28th March 2017, are a true record
 - The minutes were approved as an accurate record.
3. Chair's Annual Report (presented by Bryan Colby on behalf of Barbara Cropp)
 - We are now in our 10th year since we were resurrected as the Melksham Gardeners' Society. Last year our membership was healthy but a bit down on the previous year at 67 with approximately 40 members on average coming to each meeting.
 - I hope you agree that we have had another good range of speakers this year: Ray Broughton (the ketchup man) has been back twice and our talks have ranged from growing vegetables to Capability Brown's landscapes. I hope you all enjoyed them. We welcome feedback. Please let your committee know what you think and any ideas you may have.
 - Our Coach Trip last year was to the Kew Gardens. I hope those who came along enjoyed their visit.
 - We should thank Martin for organising our visit to Beggars Knoll Chinese Garden for our June evening meeting particularly as it needed to be arranged over 2 evenings.
 - 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, was once again Mick Company. Well done Mick!
 - Our seed order was well supported this year. I hope that the change to Mr Fothergills works out as the season progresses. Later on, we will need to decide whether we go back to T&M or go with Fothergills again. Let us know how you get along.
 - Thanks go to the members of the committee and all the members who help in their various ways to make this a thriving Society, and hopefully look forward to another interesting year to come.
4. Treasurer's Annual Report (Martin Hopkins)

Melksham Gardeners' Society

- For the financial year ending 28 Mar 2018 MGS saw a healthy financial period, with additional functions provided and supported by the MGS accounts. However, an operating loss of £356.94 was recorded.
- Income was £3,665.17 – up by £200 from the previous year. This money was generated from 65 Annual Memberships, Tea & Coffee sales, Raffle Sales and donations plus grants totalling £400 from Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Council. MGS members' payments to garden trips and the annual show provided additional income.
- Expenditure was £4022.11 and covered all items including show costs, coach trip, garden visit, speakers and incidentals, e.g. tea/coffee/raffle prizes.
- As expected, we made a loss on the Annual Show, greater than last year due in part to the inclement weather which reduced the number of people attending the show. The annual summer Coach Trip and the Garden Visit did realize small deficits but that is why we pay our membership fees and ask for the grants.
- Currently we have £3,411.24 in the bank plus £20 cash float; so we are pretty healthy still and as such, we are putting on two garden coach trips in in the coming year.
- I see no reason to increase membership costs for the next 2 years.

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 a unanimous show of hands from members.

6. Any other business

- There being no further business the Chair closed the Annual General Meeting at 7:45pm.