

Melksham Gardeners' Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Tuesday 26th March 2019 at 7.30pm

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

Society Members as marked in the Attendance Register

Apologies: Bryan Colby, Admin Secretary

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence

- Barbara opened the meeting at 7:30pm. She requested of the membership if she could continue with the AGM without Bryan. It was agreed that she could.
- We all wished Bryan well.
- Member apologies were assumed and accepted.

2. Confirmation that the Minutes of the last AGM, Tuesday 27th March 2018, are a true record

- The minutes were approved as an accurate record. (agreed Janey Cox Seconded Sandra Varney)

3. Chair's Annual Report :- Well our AGM has come around again and we march into our 11th year – doesn't seem possible it is that long since I foolishly put my hand up at the meeting at Avon House to join the committee. I am not sure of our actual numbers as unfortunately our Administration Secretary Bryan cannot be with us today, but we have approximately 70 members with 40/45 people attending each meeting.

- We have had another good year with a varied range of speakers from Ray Broughton with his Vegetable talk, to Christine Stapley on Herbs for the Kitchen through to Coppicing with Tean Mitchell and Dealing with Pests by Kate Collins.
- With the consent of our Treasurer; we managed three coach trips last year – the first to RHS Wisley in May, then onto Dyffryn Gardens in Wales on a very hot July day, through to our final trip to see the gorgeous autumn colour at Westonbirt.
- On a beautiful June evening we went to that lovely garden at West Lavington where we were shown around by the Head Gardener through a diverse range of garden types.
- Our Garden & Produce Show was held in September; and we had a very good turnout, unfortunately this year due to the demise of The Countrywide Store we were unable to give a voucher, but the winner of the Best In in Show was Beth Dark and the RHS Banksian Medal went to Mick Company.
- Our seed order through Mr. Fothergill was well supported this year and thanks again go to Bryan (in his absence) for collating it all and making sure we all had the correct seed packets ready for this summer's sunshine.

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- It just remains for me to ask you to show your appreciation for our fantastic committee who help me organise our Society and commit their time and effort every month to making this an enjoyable society.

4. Treasurer's Annual Report (Martin Hopkins)

- For the financial year ending 26 Mar 2019 MGS saw a healthy financial period, with additional functions provided and supported by the MGS accounts. However, an operating loss of £155.25 was recorded.
- Income was £3,880.50 – up by £150 from the previous year. This money was generated from 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 £4035.80 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, however, only £108, due to the Hall fees being paid by Melksham Town Council. The two Coach Trips and the June Garden Visit did realize small deficits but that is why we pay our membership fees and ask for the grants.
- Currently we have £3,015.20 in the bank plus £20 cash float; so we are pretty healthy still and as such, we are putting on three garden coach trips (one to a Christmas Market event) 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 but Mr Mike Goodhew mentioned he might be interested and would attend a meeting to see.

6. The new officers and committee were voted in by a unanimous show of hands from members. Agreed Helena Richards Seconded Mr Dix

7. Any other business

- Bryan has produced the new card for 2019-2020 which is a blue one. Due to the demise of Countrywide in Melksham, the Chair obtained a deal with Lowdens Garden Centre whereby Club Members will receive a 10% discount, on production of their card at the till, on garden plants.

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- No further business was raised so the Chair closed the Annual General Meeting at 7:45pm and introduced our guest speaker, Paul Jupp with a talk about Gardening with Wild Plants.