

HURST HORTICULTURAL & COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY

MINUTES OF A WASH-UP AND GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 20th September 2017 at The Castle Inn, Hurst.

Present: Keith Attfield (chair), Julie Attfield, Frank and Sheila Whittaker, John and Jo Penney, Ken and Penny Curry, Howard Larkin, Betty Smith, Eric and Sue Rockall, Martin and Ann Newman, David and Heather Howarth, Mac Stephenson, Bob Nugent, Edwin Jarvis.

Apologies: Kathy Tuggey, Suzy Watt, John and Ann-Marie Vimpany, David and Naomi Bassett, Margaret Jarvis, Gavin and Sue Verdin, Ted Smith, Paul Martin, Annette Drake, Janet Larkin, Barbara Stephenson.

Keith opened the meeting by informing those present that Kathy Tuggey was unable to attend and as Vice Chair, he would be chairing the meeting.

Matters Arising from the Planning and General Meeting of April 25th 2017.

There were no matters arising from this meeting.

Finance: Ann distributed the show accounts which showed a surplus from the 2017 show of £672.10. The Society had a total of £8,436.10 cash assets at the time of the meeting. Ann stated she is attempting to obtain interest on this amount from Santander Bank but from initial feedback has low expectations. Frank stated the administrative process with Santander to change treasurers from John to Ann was frustrating but was achieved in the end thanks to Ann's diligence. He also wanted recorded in the minutes that the two past cheque signatories of John Penney and Terry Bunyard had been removed during this process. The two cheque signatories are now Ann Newman and Sheila Whittaker.

Keith thanked Ann for succeeding John as treasurer and congratulated her on the efficient way in which this was done.

2017 Show Wash-Up: Horticulture: In Janet's absence Howard informed the meeting that all of the display tables were full of entries with similar numbers to last year. Vegetable entries were up whilst children's entries were down. Flower entries were also down which may have been due to difficult weather conditions shortly before the show.

Home Industries: Julie informed the meeting that flower arranging entries were down, the men's flowers in a tankard were missing this year and will be reinstated next year, men's apple flan numbers were also down. The own recipe cakes category was popular as was the flavoured spirits. Photography and art entries were well down and Julie said a way to improve on this was to inform some local photographic and art groups ahead of the show to encourage entries. The "cheats" cake recipe was not in this year's show but will be reinstated in 2018. Julie stated that the judges commented on the high standards of entries at the show.

It was suggested that the three children's age group categories should be reviewed with the possibility of adding a fourth, this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Refreshments: This activity worked well and was as popular as ever with takings slightly above last year's but with lower show visitor numbers.

Show Set-up: Ken informed the meeting that the whole operation worked smoothly and the new equipment storage arrangement at Stanlake was an improvement on the previous one. He said that the physical transportation of all the tables and chairs was labour intensive but there was no way around it. He commented on the valuable assistance from Ty Bolton for the transportation and erection of the band tent which was greatly appreciated.

Car Park: Eric and David said the car parking in the field went well however there was a problem with a number of rogue vehicles parked outside the hall which blocked other traffic. Next year "no parking" bollards will be placed along this part of the road. Additionally Eric stated that the men doing the road works in School Road were particularly helpful.

Other Topics: The filthy state of the fridge in the hall kitchen was again raised and whilst e-mails had been sent to the Halls Committee Chairman, disappointingly no response had been received. Penny said she would again raise this at the next committee meeting as it was a health hazard. This item will be discussed at the next Horticultural Society meeting to review any progress made.

The feedback regarding the change from children's cash prizes to upgraded medals and certificates was discussed and generally considered positive so it was agreed to continue with this.

A change to earlier opening of the show grounds from 1:30pm to 1pm was suggested with the halls opening time remaining the same at 1:30pm. This was considered a good idea.

A review of the hot food arrangements was suggested and will be discussed at the next meeting.

A review of the music arrangements was suggested and will be discussed at the next meeting, meanwhile opinions will be sought for alternatives which will be discussed at the next committee meeting and fed back to the next general meeting for decision.

The subject of a donation to charity was raised and discussed. It was unanimously agreed in principle to make a donation and to follow the same procedure as last year whereby an email will be sent to all members asking for suggested good causes. This will then be discussed at the next committee meeting and a short list brought to the next general meeting for decision about the recipient and the amount of money.

Bob Nugent, being a relative newcomer to the show when asked his opinion of the show said he loved the show and was glad to be part of it and looks forward to the 2018 show.

Betty suggested prior to next year's show we send an email to everyone requesting they bring any spare apples, flowers and other fruit so they can be sold by her in her tent as they bring in good revenue to the show and supplies ran out this year.

Jo brought along a valuable cup, the Lord Hirst cup (correct spelling) which is owned by the society and had previously been awarded for the most points at the mini-show. As the mini-show format has changed, this cup is superfluous to our current needs and consideration will be given to its use in future. In the meantime Frank agreed to look after it.

Keith closed the meeting by saying that whilst the entry and visitor numbers were down this year, possibly affected by the road closure and the Twyford Show being held on the same day, the show was a great success. He received a lot of feedback regarding its friendly atmosphere and so fitting for a small village community. He was proud to be part of it.