

## HH&CGS COMMITTEE MEETING – FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2018 – MINUTES

**Present:** Kathy Tuggey (Chairman), Frank Whittaker, Keith Attfield, Julie Attfield, Janet Larkin, Paul Martin, Ann Newman. **Apologies:** Ken Curry.

**Finance:** Ann informed the meeting the society had a credit balance of £8,436 in the bank with two invoices totalling £285 due for payment shortly.

**Charitable Donation:** At the previous general meeting on 20 September last year it was agreed to donate a sum of money to charity and members were invited to submit any recommendations to the secretary by January 31<sup>st</sup> 2018. It was agreed that both the amount and the recommended charity would then be considered by the committee and put to the next general meeting, in April, for a final decision by vote.

The committee noted that the 2017 show made a surplus of £672 and it was agreed to recommend that we donate £500 of this to one recipient rather than fragmenting the amount. This was in line with the previous year.

A total of 7 suggested charities had been submitted by the membership and after careful consideration and discussion it was decided to shortlist to three to be put forward to the next general meeting to make the final decision. These being: Thrive, Community First Responders and Samaritans. The following summaries of the activities of each have been taken from their websites:

**Thrive:** – Registered as The Society for Horticultural Therapy with the Charities Commission. Thrive uses gardening to bring about positive changes to the lives of people living with disabilities or ill health, who are isolated, disadvantaged or vulnerable. This is known as `social and therapeutic horticulture`- the process of working with plants to improve physical and psychological health, communication and listening skills. Thrive is a UK wide charity with the local activities based at Beech Hill, Reading. ([www.thrive.org.uk](http://www.thrive.org.uk))

**Community First Responders:**–Their volunteers deliver life-saving skills in response to emergencies in the local area they work or live. They often arrive at the scene shortly before the ambulance gets there and apply emergency life-saving medical treatment earlier, they actually save lives in doing this as often time is critical in such cases as: cardiac arrest, heart attack, stroke, choking, chest pains and unconscious patients. They also provide defibrillators and the training needed to go with them. Linked to the St John Ambulance Service these first responders have to fund their own uniforms and basic equipment. The Wokingham hub has first responders around the whole area and covers Hurst amongst other local towns and villages. ([www.sja.org.uk](http://www.sja.org.uk))

**Samaritans:**– Only funded by donations, receiving no government funding. Providing round the clock service by volunteers to help those in the depths of despondency or considering suicide. They also work with railways to train and support people at stations to intervene and prevent suicides in our area at Winnersh and Twyford stations. The Bracknell, Wokingham and District branch covers Hurst and needs £25k each year to fund its activities. ([www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org))

**Review of Hot Food arrangements:** The current hot food is adequate and will be retained but it was considered worthwhile to explore an additional offer such as hot waffles. We would ask Ken to

research this and Paul also agreed to look into it. Any new offer must not directly compete with our own afternoon teas service.

**Bar:** Gavin and Sue have successfully run the bar for many years and wish to retire from this. We are therefore seeking someone new to run this important and profitable outlet.

**Show Grounds to Open ½ hour Earlier at 1pm:** It was agreed this should happen, however the show halls opening would remain the same at 1:30pm. Keith will adjust the wording in the schedule. A sign informing visitors of the time of the auction to be displayed this year.

**Music:** Whilst many of our visitors enjoy the Waltham St Lawrence Silver Band music it was felt that a change of music style would be welcomed and should be explored but not exceeding the cost of last year's band. Other styles of music were discussed and it was agreed the suggestion of a Country and Western group should be explored as this theme could then be adopted with bales of straw around the tent and perhaps involving the scarecrows. Keith agreed to look into this, involving Ken. Paul suggested that as some of the local schools have music groups and small bands they may welcome the opportunity to perform for a short time in front of an audience at the show. This would provide an additional feature of entertainment and could encourage visitors to stay longer. Paul agreed to look into this with his connections locally.

**Potato in a Bucket:** The potatoes and buckets will be distributed on Tuesday April 10<sup>th</sup> at The Castle Inn, Hurst, so members can come along and collect them then. Members of the committee will be there to meet and chat with society members but there will be no meeting held that night. Paul agreed to manage this process again this year. A communication will be sent out to all members informing them of this arrangement. Janet assured us that the potatoes will have sufficient time to grow between then and the mini-show (possibly June 27<sup>th</sup> tbc)

**Date of AGM:** This will be held on Thursday April 26<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:30pm in The Castle Inn, Hurst to be immediately followed by a full planning and general meeting.

**Mini-Show:** Last year's was a great success enjoyed by everyone attending. The provisional date for this year's is Wednesday June 27<sup>th</sup> the venue yet to be decided.

**Free Seeds for Children:** Janet informed us that these were no longer available however children's growing classes would continue this year with their own seeds but with minor changes to the classes. The children's schedule would again be printed.

**Show Judges:** Kathy agreed to approach the horticulture judges to secure their services again and Julie said she was well advanced with the home industries judges. Naomi who normally judges the children's section will not be at this year's show. Julie informed the meeting that the Reverend Anna Harwood, the new vicar of Hurst, had agreed to be the replacement judge for the children's classes. Scarecrow class: This year we will revert back to one class and Kathy will approach last year's winner to be the judge.

**Visiting Speakers:** Paul asked if the society would consider arranging visiting speakers. It was agreed to discuss this at the next general meeting to explore what interest exists.

**Schedule:** Keith is well advanced with this and it was agreed to print extra copies this year for distribution at the Hurst Country Fayre in June.

**Chairman:** Kathy explained that due to additional and changed domestic circumstances she will reluctantly stand down from the chairmanship and committee at the next AGM. Whilst she will remain involved and supportive of the society, she is unable to commit enough time to it and does not want to let anyone down. Frank informed everyone that at the upcoming AGM, all committee posts will be open for election and he asked all current committee members to inform him in advance if they wished to stand for re-election.