

HURST HORTICULTURAL & COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING AND WASH-UP MEETING

Thursday September 15th 2016 at The Castle Inn, Hurst

Kathy welcomed everyone to the meeting and remarked how well the 2016 show had gone, despite the weather forecast. She then said the success of the show reflected on the effort of the people involved and the pride they take in the show.

Frank introduced Martin and Ann Newman as enthusiastic newcomers to the society and Kathy welcomed them and noted that Martin had won three trophies in this year's show.

Present: Kathy Tuggey (Chair), Suzy Watt, Frank and Sheila Whittaker, Ken and Penny Curry, Paul Martin, John and Jo Penney, Howard and Janet Larkin, Martin and Ann Newman, Edwin and Margaret Jarvis, Ted and Betty Smith, Keith and Julie Attfield, David and Heather Howard, Eric and Sue Rockall, Mac Stephenson, Gavin and Sue Verdin, Annette Drake.

Apologies: David and Naomi Bassett, Janet and Bruce Spiller, John and Ann-Marie Vimpany, Barbara Stephenson.

Matters Arising from the General Meeting of April 28th 2016: Frank confirmed there were no outstanding items from this meeting and everything had been acted upon.

Finance: John handed out a detailed breakdown of the 2016 show accounts which were briefly discussed. John noted that show entries and gate receipts were below last year probably because of the poor weather forecast. However stall fees, sponsorship and donations were up with teas, bar, raffle, produce auction and plant stall income being similar.

Overall the show made a net surplus of £569.66p after allowing for capital expenditure of £417.56p for new gazebos and display banners. The society had a bank and cash balance of £9,041.33p.

Search for new Treasurer: Kathy reminded the meeting that John will be retiring as treasurer at the next AGM and asked everyone present to consider if they knew of anyone who may wish to fill this vacancy, if so they should contact Frank (secretary@hursthorticulturalshow.org). John explained that the few days around the show are the busiest for the treasurer but for most of the year there is nothing to be done.

2016 Wash-Up: - Horticultural Section: Janet reported that entry numbers to most adult classes were down this year whilst children's entries were up. It was thought that the new children's brochure, closer contact with local schools and free seeds all helped to achieve this. The new points system worked well and it was considered worthwhile to continue with the new miniature tomatoes class.

Home Industries Section: Julie reported that it was helpful to have access to the hall at 5pm on the Friday evening. She said children's entries were up by 37% but adult photography entries were down and perhaps we should promote the show to local photography clubs. In general Julie reported the whole Home Industries section went well. Julie did comment that the management of the children's prize money has proven increasingly difficult and wondered whether additional medals/rosettes

could take the place of money. She suggested this be discussed in more detail as an agenda item at a future meeting. A number of those present agreed and Frank will action this. Ted, as judge of the fresh eggs class reminded the meeting that eggs must not be refrigerated.

Comments were made about security, particularly when judging was taking place in the main hall as at this time access to the hall is prohibited however people were still entering. It was agreed that at future shows we would appoint a nominated person to control any access to the hall and the general area of the show to restrict access only to people with bonafide reasons for being there before show opening time. It was suggested that access to toilets during judging time should be via the main road entrance with the front hall toilets being used.

The new scarecrow class was a great success with the 13 entries creating much interest, comment and joviality. Next year we should use the band tent in the morning as a `muster point` for entrants to deliver their scarecrows. We should consider asking for `free standing` scarecrows, compile an exhibitor`s list, have rosettes, have a separate children`s class and perhaps ask the band to play the scarecrow song from the Wizard of Oz. Neil Maybury, this year`s winner has agreed to be next year`s scarecrow judge and as with the men`s only apple flan, he will be unable to enter this class next year but can in 2018.

Refreshments: The teas went well but concern was expressed that it was possible to purchase separate pieces of cake from one of the outside stall holders which affected cake sales at the tea kiosk. It was suggested that due to requests from stall holders for refreshments to be made available before 1:30pm, the bar and tea kiosk should open at 12:00 noon. Frank to arrange the bar licence to fit in with this earlier opening.

It was noted that the village hall was in good condition this year and after we had finished it was handed back in equally good condition. Kathy thanked Glyn for this and has written accordingly.

Show Set-Up: Ken reported that this year`s set-up went smoothly, greatly assisted by the new gazebos, all of which are now `pop-up` types. He stated that we need to secure the site earlier on Saturday morning to avoid cars being parked which obstruct access and create a danger. It was agreed that details to overcome this would be ironed out during the 2017 show planning process. Ken thanked the occupants of the house next to the hall for their cooperation and understanding as the show does disrupt their lives for the day of the show. Ken arranged a small gift in gratitude. Ken mentioned that all the stall holders wish to come back to next year`s show. Ted mentioned that Bob Nugent who kindly brought the EMS ambulance was not offered any refreshment. This was an oversight on our part and if he comes next year he will be given a cream tea and regular cups of tea as his presence was greatly appreciated.

Car Park: Eric and David reported that the car parking went smoothly with the new signage helping matters. At one point the car park was nearly full but was adequate.

Kathy thanked Penny Clayden for the use of the field and Sue Scorer for moving her horses for the field to be vacant. Both Penny and Sue had been thanked and a small gift given to each.

Other Topics: Mac reported that pre and post-show publicity went well with good coverage in the local press and whilst the main story featured the scarecrow incident with the police, it had given the show good coverage and exposure. The HVS newsletter is coming up and Mac asked for

ideas/stories to be sent to him by September 28th for him to place an article. Mac also said the pre-show banners and excellent schedules, both adult and children`s were first class and were of a much higher standard than those of other shows in the area. Keith mentioned that the price of entry into the show was not printed on the schedule but this would be remedied next year.

Donations to Charity and Good Causes: Suzy said we should know how many bad years we could survive financially and what sort of buffer amount we should have in reserve prior to allocating any donations.

John said this would be around £1,000 if everything went wrong and no public turned up at the gate. He also stated that we are insured for public liability and for loss or destruction of our gazebos, tables, chairs and other equipment we own.

Kathy asked the meeting in principle if it was in favour of donating an amount of money to good causes, provided enough reserve money was kept in the bank.

Keith said that he would be in a stronger position to obtain more sponsorship money if we did donate money to charity. Julie said she was sometimes asked what charities we donate to and her perception was that many people already assumed we donated to charities and this thought was shared by others at the meeting.

A discussion took place and a vote was taken on the principle of donating an amount of money to good causes and all at the meeting voted in favour of this motion.

Kathy suggested as a protocol for the meeting we should try to decide how much should be donated. A discussion took place and amounts between £500 and £1,000 were discussed. A vote was taken whether it should be £500 or £1,000 and by 18 votes to 7 it was passed that £500 should be the amount.

A discussion then took place regarding which good causes should benefit and it was agreed that as this could not be settled at the meeting, suggestions together with justifications should be emailed to Frank, as secretary by the end of November. He will collate them all and the committee will make a short list and bring it back to the next General Meeting for discussion and final decision.

A.O.B: Frank informed the meeting that Edwin Jarvis, after many years will relinquish his duties as collector of the Society`s cups and trophies from the previous year`s winners. Sue Rockall has agreed to take over this role and Edwin will show her what is involved and assist her in her first year. Frank then thanked Edwin for fulfilling this important role which was seconded by Kathy and everyone at the meeting.

Kathy said that there is a cup called "The President`s Cup" which historically has been awarded at the mini-show. It was not awarded this year and ideas were sought from the meeting about how it should be awarded in future. The feelings were it should be awarded at the main show and ideas put forward were: a sponsor, family entries, photography, eggs, wine or honey, most points in horticulture or our president`s choice (which other shows do). This to be discussed at a future meeting.

Kathy spoke about the unfortunate passing of loyal member Christine Cymbaluk and suggested the society may wish to make a donation to the Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice which was very supportive of Christine. A vote was taken and unanimously passed for £100 to be donated, John agreed to organise this payment.

Jo mentioned an organ recital by Christopher Cromar taking place on 24th September at St Nicholas Church, Hurst.

Date of next General Meeting to be Thursday February 9th at 7:30 pm at The Castle Inn, Hurst.

Kathy closed the meeting by reflecting on yet another very successful show and thanked everyone for their continuing enthusiastic support.