

MONKS RISBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
FRIDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2017

1. Present: President: Mrs A Maltby, **Committee Members** Mr M. White (Chairman), Mrs. J Brown (Joint Treasurer), Mr. A Leach (Joint Treasurer), Mrs. I. Richards (Membership Secretary), Mrs. J. Elphick (Field Secretary), Mrs. B. Cresswell (Social Secretary), Mrs. D. Keston, Mr N. Murtagh, Mrs D. Varley, Mrs. S Whitworth. **Society Members:** Mrs P Blake, Mr D. Brown, Mr & Mrs B Butler, Mr P Cresswell, Mrs A Dormer, Mrs J East, Mrs A Eggleton, Mr K Elphick, Mrs S Evans, Mr C Reynolds, Mr & Mrs S Knowles, Mrs B Hatchet, Mr Ian Miller-Hall, Mrs J Murtagh, Mrs A Neighbour, Mr A Neuman, Mr & Mrs M Payne, Mrs J Prendergast, Mr B Richards, Mrs A White.

2. Apologies: Mr P Rainbow, Mrs J Bunting , Mrs M Scott, Mrs. P Cundell

3. Welcome by the President: Mrs Maltby said how delighted she was to be at the meeting as the new president. She welcomed all the members and thanked everyone for attending.

4. Chairman's Review: The Chairman opened his review with thanks to all the committee members for their hard work on behalf of the Society. He gave a special mention to Noel Murtagh who had served on the committee in various capacities for a number of years and had decided to stand down at this AGM. Noel's contribution to the Society was greatly appreciated by all.

The Chairman spoke about the following:

- a) The great success of the Annual Quiz in January 2017. This evening is the Society's biggest fund raiser of the year.
- b) He said that the Spring Show in 2017 had fewer entries than anticipated as many of the Spring flowers had passed their best by the Show date. For 2019 the committee decided that it should consider bringing the date forward to accommodate the changing climate.
- c) Members of the Society had helped plant 5,000 crocus bulbs around the town in Spring 2017 as part of a Rotary Club initiative to finance polio immunisation in Africa.
- d) The Society had supported three plant sales over the year, one at St Dunstan's Primary School, one at the Town Festival and one at St Dunstan's Church Fun Day.
- e) At the Town Festival the Society had a stall selling plants and promoting the Society; it was felt to have been successful on both counts.
- f) The Chairman and his wife, Anne, had been into Monks Risborough Primary School to promote the growing of runner beans by the children. The idea was that they would enter their plants into the Annual Show. The society provided the beans and on the day one healthy plant was entered. But some of the children still spoke to the Chairman about their efforts. Grass heads will be tried for next year. This initiative was introduced to try to encourage the children and their families to become more involved in the Annual Show and horticulture in general.
- g) We have had a variety of speakers at our indoor meetings this year but one of our greatest successes was an impromptu 'Gardener's Question Time' when four of our members fielded questions from the floor about gardening problems. We enjoyed not only our 'expert' panel's replies but lots of helpful input from the body of the meeting. A great time was had by all.
- h) Finally, the Chairman spoke about the Show and the good variety of stalls put together by our Field Secretary. We were blessed with good weather after a late morning shower and the

new reptile stall and bee keepers' demonstration, plus the penny slot machine, were held to be good additions.

5. Minutes of the AGM held on Friday 2st October 2016: Copies of these minutes were distributed before the meeting and after the Chairman had run through them they were accepted and signed as a true record of the event.

6. Matters arising from minutes of AGM 2016: These were covered in the Chairman's Review.

7. Secretary's Report: Over the past twelve months the Society has not had an official Secretary and so all correspondence and secretarial work has been carried out by the Chairman. When Mrs Anne Maltby retired as Secretary after fourteen years in office all her files were passed to the Chairman and since then all correspondence etc. has been sent to his address. The Chairman also took and circulated minutes of committee meetings throughout the year. As the Chairman was also Secretary for the year all matters usually covered by the Secretary's report were dealt with in his review.

8. Treasurer's Report: Copies of the Society's Accounts were circulated to members present.

Jenny Brown explained how the post of Treasurer was divided between herself and Andrew Leach. Jenny dealt with the day to day finances of the society and Andrew was responsible for the advertising and collection of income generated from the adverts printed in the schedule.

Our major financial commitment was the Annual Show. There was an overall small increase in income of £131.51 over the previous year. The Rotary Club of Haddenham & District paid for the supplies for the beer tent during the Show in return for use of the marquee in the evening for their fund-raising barn dance.

There was an overall increase in show expenditure of £203 due to the purchase of rosettes at a cost of £172 and printing of the redesigned Schedule which cost £333. However, we should have fewer rosettes to purchase for the 2018 Annual Show. The overall net loss on the Show was £413.96, an increase of £70.98 on last year.

There was a net profit of £474 over the year on social events.

To commemorate the long association of Dorothy Brock with the Society, a memorial bench in her name has been placed at the Natural Burial Meadow at Meadle at a cost of £270.

Affiliations with the Royal Horticultural Society, The Sweet Pea Society, The Rose Society and the National Vegetable Society cost £103 and show prizes from these societies came to a further £34.10.

Our Membership Secretary and Social Secretary both received £25 as honoraria to cover postage, printing etc. throughout the year.

This year we made charitable donations of £545 compared to £847 last year. Forty five pounds went to 'Children in Need', £50 pounds each to St Dunstan's Parish Church, Monks

Risborough Primary School and the National Trust. Risborough Rangers received £100 from the Society and Macmillan Cancer Support £250.

We ended the year with a final profit of £370.57 compared to £57.68 last year.

Our total assets now stand at £7,934 which leaves us a healthy balance to cover possible costs incurred by such things as a poorly attended Annual Show if the weather is against us.

Finally, thanks were expressed to Brian Richards who generously audits the Society's accounts.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was proposed by Betty Cresswell and seconded by Anne White.

9. Election of Committee Members At this point, as required by the General Rules of the Society, all current committee members stood down from their posts.

As each post came up for election the Chairman asked for volunteers from the membership attending (none had been received from members absent tonight). Nobody from the floor wished to stand for election this year.

Members of the outgoing committee stood again and the new committee was elected as follows:

Chairman – Mr Mick White, proposed by Sally Whitworth, seconded by Diane Varley

Vice Chairman – Mr Andrew Leach, proposed by Sally Whitworth, seconded by Ken Elphick

General Secretary – Mrs Betty Cresswell,

Treasurers – Mrs Jenny Brown and Mr Andrew Leach, proposed by Sally Whitworth, seconded by Betty Cresswell

Membership Secretary – Mrs Irene Richards, proposed by David Brown, seconded by Angela Eggleton

Field Secretary – Mrs Judy Elphick,

Social Secretary – position vacant,

Committee – Mrs Doreen Keston, Mrs Diane Varley and Mrs Sally Whitworth,

Nobody stood to replace Mr Noel Murtagh as a committee member.

Auditor – Mr Brian Richard, proposed by Chris Reynolds, seconded by David Brown.

10. Matters raised for discussion

Membership Subscriptions – it was put to the members that the annual subscription for a family comprising two parents and children aged 16 and under should be raised to £10, whilst individual membership should remain at £6. Clarification of who is regarded as a 'child' in a family will be made in the schedule. All members present agreed with this proposal.

General Rules of Membership – At present The General Rules of Membership call for the management of the affairs of the Society to be dealt with by the officers of the Committee plus 12 Ordinary Members. It was proposed to reduce this to 'plus 5 Ordinary Members'. Any quorum needed to pass any motion for the Society stands as The Secretary and one ex officio officer plus not less than 5 ordinary members at present. It was proposed to reduce this to The Secretary, plus one ex officio officer and '2 ordinary members' These reduced numbers were deemed to be realistic and manageable. All members present agreed.

Entry fees for classes at the Annual Show are 30p per entry or 4 entries for 75p. It was agreed by the membership present to keep this unchanged.

Prizes will be awarded as £1.50 for first prize in a class, £1.00 for second prize and 50p for third prize making it easier for the treasurer on the day than the 80p third prize which had been awarded before. Mike Pitcher will be informed of these changes.

11. Any Other Business

As there was no other business the official part of the meeting was closed and after tea and coffee were served Mr Mike Payne gave a slide show entitled “The Monks Risborough Horticultural Society Annual Show 2017”. The slides were accompanied by relevant and humorous captions or quotations and were greatly enjoyed by all present.

12. Date of Next Annual General Meeting Friday 19th October 2018