

PORLOCK HORTICULTURAL AND CRAFTS SOCIETY

AGM

Thursday 12th November 2015, 7.30pm

		Action
1	<p>Present – committee: Peter Day, Win Day, Diana Dean, Chris Fitzgerald, Betty Glossop, Peter Leather, Lin Littlefield, Paul Murch, Rita Swindells, Anna Toeman, Margaret Wildig</p> <p>In attendance: Sue Appleton, Jenny Britnell, Marilyn Murch,</p> <p>Apologies: Kath Else, Marion Phipps, Lita Strampp, Malcolm Appleton</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of 2014 AGM</p> <p>There were no corrections made to the minutes. Margaret Wildig proposed that they be approved. Chris Fitzgerald seconded. This was agreed by all and the minutes were signed by Paul Murch, Margaret and Chris.</p> <p>Matters arising</p> <p>*There were none.</p>	
3	<p>Chairman’s Report – Paul Murch</p> <p>*Paul offered his thanks to the committee with the comment “behind every great man there is a great woman but in my case I have a team of them, plus some blokes!”</p> <p>*Paul made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two committee members are stepping down – Lita Strampp and Marion Phipps – we will miss them from the committee and wish them both well. • It has been a very interesting and busy year with a number of events including five talks, two workshops, two successful Shows, a Seed Swap, a stall at the Country Fair and an entry into the Flower Festival at St Dubricius Church. • Coming up in 2016 we have another Seed Swap, talks already booked for February, April and September, a grafting workshop, hopefully a follow-up beading workshop, and a trip to Forde Abbey. This latter is a new venture and it will be underwritten by the Society if we are not able to fill the coach. However, it will be offered to other gardening clubs and local organisations once members have had the chance to book places. • Paul thanked Margaret for organising the talks and hopes she will continue in this role. Paul thanked everyone who made all the other events possible and so successful. • Paul offered his thanks to the sponsors and supporters, old and new, whose contributions and donations make such a difference to the two Shows. • Paul reported that the new tables have been a great success and we have started to recoup some of their cost by hiring them to the antiques fairs and the National Trust. We’ve also had new banners which have been very effective and much admired. • We had a very enjoyable committee dinner in January this year and will be doing the same again next year. 	
4	<p>Treasurer’s Report and Accounts – Rita Swindells</p> <p>*Rita circulated copies of the accounts to the year ended 30.09.15 which are on file with these minutes.</p> <p>*Rita made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last year there were 102 paid-up members. This is down to 101 this year. However, 8 new members have joined which must mean a number have been lost – these are the ones who have not paid their subscription for three years and have thus been taken off the list. • The new tables cost £1300 but the loss for the year was only £700 which is really good news. <p>*Rita made the following points about the Show Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The entry fees are almost exactly the same but in fact entries were down. Admissions appear to up considerably but as the entry charge increased from 50p to £1 the actual number of admissions is down. Comparing previous years Rita concluded that 2014 was an exceptionally good year but 2015 compares well with 2013. • The total income from the shows increased which is due largely to the additional sponsorship raised by Paul. • As in last year’s accounts, the full cost of printing has been put against the shows as 	

	<p>Chris Miles presented a single invoice for the full year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The expenditure is much higher than last year due to the new tables, new banners and a new battery for the Show computer. Taking these figures out of the accounts the Show Account compares well with last year. The loss on the Show Account is -£1404 but without the capital purchases there would have been a small surplus. <p>*Rita made the following points regarding the General Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income from members' subscriptions is down, even though the number of members is roughly the same, largely because a number of Patrons have become members. The income from talks is up and there was additional income thanks to the two well-attended workshops. However, an increased number of events means the cost of hall hire has also increased. The excess of income over expenditure compares well with 2014 at £678 (£657 in 2014). <p>*To summarise: at the start of the financial year the Society held £196 in cash and £6058 in the NatWest. The total loss is £726 which gives the Society total funds of £5528.</p> <p>*Rita reported that the accounts have been audited and approved by Trevor Telling. Thanks were offered to Rita and Trevor.</p> <p>*It was noted that a significantly lower figure was spent on raffle prizes than in previous years. This is because we still had gifts donated by Marion Phipps and several of the sponsors gave raffle prizes. It is hoped the same will happen next year!</p> <p>*The cost of refreshments for sale at the Shows was discussed. It was agreed that we have priced them sensibly – 50p for tea / coffee; £1 for a slice of cake; 50p for an individual cake.</p>	
5	<p>Appointment of officers to the committee</p> <p><u>Chairman</u> – Paul Murch is happy to continue. No-one else was proposed. Paul's reappointment was approved by all.</p> <p><u>Treasurer</u> – Rita Swindells is happy to continue. No-one else was proposed. Rita's reappointment was approved by all.</p> <p><u>Secretary</u> – Anna Toeman is happy to continue. No-one else was proposed. Anna's reappointment was approved by all.</p>	
6	<p>Formation of new committee</p> <p>*All current members are happy to remain on the committee, with the exception of Lita Strampp and Marion Phipps who have stepped down.</p> <p>*Marilyn Murch indicated she would like to join the committee. This was approved by all.</p> <p>*The committee therefore consists of Peter Day, Win Day, Diana Dean, Kath Else, Chris Fitzgerald, Betty Glossop, Peter Leather, Lin Littlefield, Marilyn Murch, Paul Murch, Rita Swindells, Anna Toeman and Margaret Wildig.</p>	
7	<p>AOB – from the agenda</p> <p>a) Managing membership subscriptions – it was proposed to give a deadline for existing members to pay their subscription fees so that non-payers could be given a nudge in the hope of regaining some lapsed members. It was suggested that the deadline be the end of March which would take us past the Spring Show. Rita has kept a record and can demonstrate that most people who do pay, have paid by this time. Paul would then propose a phone call to all non-payers either to find out why they no longer wish to be a member, or to prompt them to pay! This was agreed and a note to this effect will be included on the subscription renewal form.</p> <p>b) Entry fee for show exhibitors – it was proposed to increase this from 10p which it has been for a number of years. After discussion it was agreed to raise the fee to 20p per entry or £2 for any number of entries. This will be incorporated into the Schedule for the Summer Show.</p> <p>c) Prize money rates – Rita reported that a number of exhibitors don't collect their prize money but most do, particularly those who have won significant amounts. The prize money is comparable to other local shows and after discussion it was agreed to leave the amounts as they currently are.</p> <p>d) Show dates 2017 – Spring Show will be Saturday 18th March and Summer Show Saturday 15th July.</p> <p>e) Seed Swap sub-committee – Lin and Anna agreed to oversee the event. Offers of help for the day were given by Win, Diana, Rita and Sue. Lin and Anna will meet in the New Year to</p>	<p>PM</p> <p>AT</p> <p>AT</p> <p>LL/AT</p>

<p>make plans and then circulate to everyone.</p>	
<p>Any other business</p>	
<p>*It was proposed that in point 9 of the “Rules and Procedures” on the Show Schedules, the amount to be lodged with the Secretary for any objection should be raised to £1. This was agreed.</p>	AT
<p>* It was asked how we will manage the bookings for the trip to Forde Abbey. Anna offered to hold the list at the Visitor Centre. The trip will be offered to members and their guests first and if seats are still available they will be offered to other gardening clubs and other Porlock organisations. Details will be circulated in the January members’ newsletter. The cost is £18 per person. Members will be asked to book their seats by the end of January with a non-refundable deposit of £5. The balance will be due by the end of March.</p>	AT
<p>*Betty reported that she had not yet been able to contact Michael Hickson with regard to judging the Spring Show, and that Michael Marshall is happy to come as long as he is well enough on the day. She expressed concern about this situation. After discussion it was agreed that as long as Michael Hickson is able to come he could be asked to suggest someone to come with him who might be available at short notice if Michael Marshall can’t come. If Michael Hickson is not available then it will be necessary to seek a new judge – Chris Yates was suggested. Betty will keep the committee informed as and when she has news.</p>	BG
<p>*It is believed that Michael Marshall will mark his 30th visit to Porlock Spring Show next year. It was discussed whether we can confirm this and then plan to mark it in a suitable way. Anna will follow up.</p>	AT
<p>*Peter Leather expressed concern that he is the only member of the committee who knows how to input the entries data into the Show computer programme. Anna offered to learn the process but after discussion it was agreed to approach some of the newer members of the Society to see if anyone might be willing to take on this specific task.</p>	COM
<p>*It was suggested that we should combine the AGM with a talk. It would save one lot of hall hire expense and if we kept to the business of the AGM rather than drifting into committee matters it would be a much shorter meeting. It might also attract more members to attend. There was some discussion about this but it was agreed to leave any decision until a committee meeting.</p>	COM
<p>*Minehead Gardening Club has again invited two members of PHACS (plus partners) to attend their Christmas Party at the end of November. As no-one else came forward Lin and Anna said they would like to go.</p>	LL/AT
<p>Paul concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and reminding us all about Dr Gavin Haig’s talk next Wednesday.</p>	

Approval of minutes (to take place at the 2016 AGM) –