

PORLOCK HORTICULTURAL AND CRAFTS SOCIETY

AGM

Thursday 15th November 2018, 7.15pm

		Action
1	<p>Present – committee: Diana Dean, Kath Else, Chris Fitzgerald, Betty Glossop, Peter Leather, Lin Littlefield, Marilyn Murch, Paul Murch, Rita Swindells, Anna Toeman, Margaret Wildig</p> <p>In attendance: Sue Appleton, Sheila Eddols, Pauline and Geoff Garfield, Anna and Robert Hanson, Shirley-Anne Hines, K Mandry, John Proudfoot, Ros Robertson, David Swindells</p> <p>Apologies: Malcolm Appleton, Joyce Leather</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of 2017 AGM</p> <p>*These were available at the meeting. No corrections were made so they were approved and signed by Paul.</p> <p>Matters arising</p> <p>*There were none.</p>	
3	<p>Chairman’s Report – Paul Murch</p> <p>*Paul reported on all the activities that have taken place in the last year including the successful Seed Swap and Coffee Morning; a number of well-attended talks (with one still to go); an enjoyable trip to Mapperton House; and two Shows which were very good under the circumstances (snow in March and drought in July!).</p> <p>*The programme for next year is taking shape and already in the diary are the Seed Swap, a talk in February (Spring Flowers in sugarcraft), the Spring and Summer Shows and a trip in May or June (destination to be confirmed). There will also be more talks, to be confirmed.</p> <p>*Paul thanked the committee for their hard work and support, with particular thanks to Margaret for organising the very interesting talks, and Rita who is standing down as Treasurer. The committee is actively seeking a new Treasurer and if anyone is interested please come and speak to us. Luckily Rita has agreed to carry on until she moves.</p> <p>*Paul offered thanks to the Sponsors, both old and new, whose contributions makes a significant difference to balancing the books. Some make financial contributions and others offer raffle prizes and both help to ensure that the two Shows remain financially possible.</p> <p>*Porlock Horticultural and Crafts Society entered a team in the Inter-club Gardening Quiz held in Carhampton. The success of previous years couldn’t be repeated with the team coming second from last, but it was very enjoyable!</p> <p>There were no questions from the floor.</p>	
4	<p>Treasurer’s Report and Accounts – Rita Swindells</p> <p>*The accounts to the year ended 30th September 2018 were available at the meeting.</p> <p>*Rita made the following points regarding the General Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Society has the exactly the same number of members as last year. But more of these are Patrons hence the difference in funds • Speakers are quite expensive so the talks rarely make a profit but there are sufficient funds available for this not to be a worry at this time • The income from the trip to Mapperton House was down on last year’s trip but this is largely because the trip was in the same week as that of Porlock Ladies. We won’t be making the same mistake in 2019! • The Country Fair is a good boost to income as it costs very little financially, just in terms of people’s time • There was a surplus of £337 on the general account which is very pleasing <p>*Rita made the following points about the Show Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of entries were largely the same as last year but visitor numbers were down, probably because of the weather • Income from the sponsors is very valuable and Rita thanked Paul and Marilyn for all their efforts in collecting from the sponsors • Cup engraving costs are much reduced thanks to the sponsorship offered by Francis James in Minehead • Catering costs have gone up because we now need to use an outside caterer. However, this was given lots of thought and considered acceptable 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Shows made a loss of £249 <p>*The surplus across both accounts was £88 which is very pleasing in the circumstances. Total funds available at the end of the year of £6351. This is a very pleasing for a small Society.</p> <p>*The accounts have been audited and were approved by Geoff Garfield.</p> <p>Rita was given a vote of thanks for all her work and efficiency. She will be missed by the committee.</p> <p>Questions from the floor:</p> <p>1) <i>Given that the bank balance is quite large and probably larger than it should be, would the committee think of spending or donating funds to a local cause?</i> There was some discussion on this and in conclusion it was agreed to bring the suggestion up at a committee meeting for further discussion.</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 moving away and not able to continue as Treasurer once she has left Porlock. No one put themselves forward for the role. Paul explained that the role could be split into two smaller roles if this would be more attractive, and Rita outlined the kind of time commitment that is necessary. The role remains vacant.</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 remaining members of the committee are happy to continue. No one else came forward to join so the committee therefore consists of Diana Dean, Kath Else, Chris Fitzgerald, Betty Glossop, Peter Leather, Lin Littlefield, Marilyn Murch, Paul Murch, Anna Toeman and Margaret Wildig.</p>	
7	<p>AOB</p> <p>a) The membership fee has not been discussed at a committee meeting but Paul asked the floor for any thoughts. Everyone seems to be happy with the fee and with the healthy bank balance there seems to be no need to increase it. It was proposed to leave the fee the same in 2019. This was seconded and approved. Members fee will remain at £3 and Patrons at £6.</p> <p>Questions from the floor:</p> <p>1) <i>Given the health of the bank balance would the committee consider having a year when no one pays entry to the talks?</i> It was explained that speakers are expensive and that the money in the bank is not just sitting there but has and will continue to be used to invest in capital purchases such as the new display tables. However, this question will be discussed at a committee meeting.</p> <p>2) <i>Has the Society ever attempted to get involved in the flower displays in the village?</i> Not so far, but we have tried to get involved in the school, providing a lot of time and resources until it became evident that the parents and teachers were not especially interested. The point about getting involved in the flower displays will be discussed at a committee meeting.</p> <p>b) Paul mentioned that Yatton Gardening Club are hosting Chris Beardshaw who will be speaking there on 21st March 2019. Please see Paul for more information.</p> <p>Paul concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for coming. The questions to be discussed by the committee will be reported in the Members' newsletter.</p>	

The meeting was followed by refreshments and then an excellent and very informative demonstration by Sally Bate on how to make floral Christmas table decorations.

Approval of minutes (to take place at the 2019 AGM) –