

PORLOCK VALE HORTICULTURAL AND HOME INDUSTRIES SOCIETY

AGM

Thursday 13th November 2014, 7.30pm

		Action
1	<p>Present – committee: Peter Day, Win Day, Diana Dean, Kath Else, Chris Fitzgerald, Betty Glossop, Peter Leather, Lin Littlefield, Paul Murch, Lita Strampp, Rita Swindells, Anna Toeman, Margaret Wildig</p> <p>In attendance: Jenny Britnell, Marilyn Murch, David Swindells, Trevor Telling</p> <p>Apologies: Malcolm and Sue Appleton, Julie Exall, Pauline and Geoff Garfield, Marion Phipps, Ros Robertson</p>	
	Prior to the meeting Paul Murch had agreed to take the chair.	
2	<p>Minutes of 2013 AGM</p> <p>There were no corrections made to the minutes. Rita Swindells proposed that they be approved. Chris Fitzgerald seconded. This was agreed by all.</p> <p>Matters arising</p> <p>*There was none.</p>	
	<p>Chairman’s Report – Paul Murch</p> <p>*Paul offered his thanks to everyone on the committee and said it had been an unusual but very good year. He made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There had been two very successful Shows and the plant stall at the Country Fair did well. • The talks have been excellent and Paul thanked Margaret for organising them and expressed a hope that she would carry on doing it! • The Seed Swap was a very good event. • The willow-weaving workshop had been successful. Win added that it had been busy but very enjoyable. This was a new type of event with the idea of making things more interesting for the members and we hope to do more in the future. Plans are being made for a beading workshop with Lin in the New Year. • Thanks were offered to Katie who has stepped down from the committee due to family commitments. Individual members of the committee have emailed their thanks to her already. • The new tables have arrived and one was available at the meeting for inspection. The old trestle tables have been re-homed to local organisations (Parish Council, Community Orchard Group and Visitor Centre) and some individuals. 	
3	<p>Treasurer’s Report and Accounts – Rita Swindells</p> <p>*Rita circulated copies of the accounts to the year ended 30.09.14. These had been audited by Trevor Telling.</p> <p>*Rita made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She had taken over as Treasurer from Malcolm Appleton who had handed over the books in perfect order. Rita was faced with a number of IT challenges but has not found too many other problems. • One of the first tasks was to change the signatories which proved extremely difficult but was achieved in the end. The signatories are Rita, Chris Fitzgerald and Anna Toeman. • Rita had proposed closing the Santander account and with the committee’s approval had done this which had made life much easier, particularly when raising a large cheque such as that for the tables. A small amount of interest has been lost by doing this, but it is not significant. • The Society has 49 Patrons and 53 members who have paid in 2014. This includes Shirley Butler but does not include Audrey Holley who has moved away. Last year Malcolm had reported on a continued decrease in paying membership and Rita was pleased to report that membership is slightly up this year. There are 14 additional members if those who haven’t paid for 1 or 2 years are included. • Members have paid a number of variations on the subscription amount and Rita eventually decided to put the total down as membership, rather than splitting off an amount for donations. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The accounts have been laid out in the same format as Malcolm used as it makes it very easy to compare with the previous year. <p>*Rita made the following points about the Show Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of the income figures have increased. Rita offered thanks to Lin for organising the very successful plant stalls, and to Diana for organising the raffles. Many of the expenditure figures have also increased. Rita was particularly surprised by the amount for cup engraving, but no-one had claimed money for this in 2013. There have been extra printing costs with additional Members' newsletters but as Chris Miles presented an invoice for the full year Rita has not split it down but put all costs against the Shows. The loss from the two Shows combined is £339 but this is nothing to worry about as it is more than covered by membership fees. <p>*Rita made the following points regarding the General Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The money raised from table hire is quite a useful income for the Society. All income figures bar the Country Fair were up, but the Fair was significantly affected by the weather. There were no significant changes to the expenditure figures except that the RHS affiliation has been reinstated. It had lapsed in the year before. The surplus on the General Account is £657. <p>*To summarise: At the start of the financial year the Society held £115 in cash, £185 in the NatWest and £5632 in Santander. The total surplus is £318 which gives the Society total funds of £6254.</p> <p>*Rita reported that the accounts have been audited and approved by Trevor Telling. Thanks were offered to Rita and Trevor. The accounts were adopted as a true reflection of the current financial position.</p> <p>*Rita noted that since preparing the accounts the Society had spent £1300 on the new tables.</p> <p>*A question was asked regarding the increase in Competitors Prizes – Rita reported that this is simply because more people had claimed their prizes but it is not something to be concerned about.</p>	
4	<p>Secretary's Report – Anna Toeman</p> <p>Anna had prepared a report but it repeated almost exactly what Paul had already said in his Chairman's report. She offered thanks to the committee for their enthusiasm and encouragement and making her first year as secretary so much fun.</p>	
5	<p>Appointment of officers to the committee</p> <p><u>Chairman</u> – Chris Fitzgerald proposed Paul Murch. Seconded by Lin Littlefield. Approved</p> <p><u>Treasurer</u> – Win Day proposed Rita Swindells. Seconded by Chris Fitzgerald. Approved.</p> <p><u>Secretary</u> – Rita Swindells proposed Anna Toeman. Seconded by Chris Fitzgerald. Approved.</p>	
6	<p>Formation of new committee</p> <p>*All current members are happy to remain on the committee.</p> <p>*No new members came forward at this meeting but Paul stated that if anyone expressed an interest they would be most welcome.</p> <p>*The committee therefore consists of Peter Day, Win Day, Diana Dean, Kath Else, Chris Fitzgerald, Betty Glossop, Peter Leather, Lin Littlefield, Paul Murch, Marion Phipps, Lita Strampp, Rita Swindells, Anna Toeman and Margaret Wildig.</p>	
7	<p>AOB – from the agenda</p> <p>a) New name for the Society – it had been discussed on several occasions that the name is a bit of a mouthful and possibly out-of-step with the 21st Century. It had been agreed to keep the full name for formal use such as on the bank account and cups and trophies, but to try and have a lighter name for everyday use. After much discussion, and voting by all present on each word of the name, Porlock Horticultural and Crafts Society was adopted as the new informal name. The will duly appear on posters and all communications with members.</p> <p>b) Society sponsors – Paul reported that he and Anna have spoken about trying to attract new sponsors for the Society and he has been following this up with local businesses. He has more he plans to approach but Clive Downs Butchers and The Home Cook Café have both agreed to become sponsors. The exact form of their sponsorship has yet to be finalised but it is expected to be financial.</p>	<p>AT</p> <p>PM</p>

c) Members' trip for 2015 – Anna reported that Minehead Gardening Club has two visits in 2015: Sunday 12th July to Hestercombe and Sunday 18th October to Westonbirt. There had been some idea to try and combine with them for a visit, but our members are always invited to join them. There were some suggestions for trips including the Rare Plants Fair at Bishops Palace, Wells; Hestercombe Illuminata (autumn or Christmas); Hestercombe by railway. It was agreed that further discussion would take place at the next committee meeting and any thoughts for trips should be brought to that meeting.

*Lin has investigated the cost of hiring a coach from Ridlers. They are unable to give a price without an idea of where and when the trip will be but they do have a variety of sized coaches – Standard (35, 53, 55, 57 seats), Midi (22 or 24 seats), Mini (16 seats).

d) Show dates 2016 – Spring Show will be Saturday 19th March and Summer Show Saturday 16th July.

Any other business

*It was asked whether the notion of an Autumn Show has been done away with. The response was that there is not sufficient interest at present but if this were to change then the idea could be revisited. This might come about if it could be linked with another event such as Apple Day or a Food Fair, or in response to Open Gardens being moved to September.

*Thanks were offered to Win and Peter Day for hosting so many of our committee meetings and they were presented with a bouquet. Their hospitality has been very much appreciated.

COM

Anna Toeman, Secretary

Approval of minutes (to take place at the 2015 AGM) –

Proposed:

Seconded: