

PORLOCK HORTICULTURAL AND CRAFTS SOCIETY

AGM

Thursday 24th November 2022, 7.15pm

		Action
1	<p>Present – committee: Diana Dean, John Denmark, Kath Else, Chris Fitzgerald, Anna Hanson, Peter Leather, Lin Littlefield, Marilyn Murch, Paul Murch, Anna Toeman, Margaret Wildig</p> <p>In attendance: Sue Appleton, Sarah Bryce, Shirley Butler, Sue Denmark, Geoff Garfield, Pauline Garfield, Robert Hanson, Lorraine Hunt, Claire Kenward, Joyce Leather, Kath Mandry, Pam Molford, John Proudfoot, Denise Sage, Malcolm Sage, Hannah Smith</p> <p>Apologies: Malcolm Appleton</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of 2019 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, the excellent talks, a very enjoyable trip to Tyntesfield, two Shows and the Country Fair. It was good to get back to a full programme of events after Covid.</p> <p>*The programme for next year is taking shape and already in the diary are the Seed Swap, talks in February (Tales from the Potting Shed), April (Porlock Community Orchard), September (Gardening for Pollinators) and November (Orchids), the two Shows and a trip to Berkeley Castle in June. There may also be other events, not yet planned.</p> <p>*Paul thanked the whole committee for their hard work and support and highlighted those with particular roles. He thanked Peter Leather for managing the Show Entries for many years, and for ensuring a smooth handover of the role to Anna and Robert Hanson. Peter is staying on the committee which everyone is pleased about!</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. The Society reciprocates by displaying all the sponsors and their contact details at both shows.</p> <p>*This year we had been able to enter a team in the Inter-Gardening Club quiz in Carhampton and are happy to report that we didn’t come last!</p> <p>There were no questions from the floor.</p>	
4	<p>Treasurer’s Report and Accounts – John Denmark</p> <p>*The accounts to the year ended 30th September 2022 were available at the meeting.</p> <p>*John made the following points regarding the accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is three years since he has presented any accounts due to Covid. The first year we were only active for half the year, the second year we had no activities at all and the third year we have been nearly back to normal, but are not quite there yet. Because of this, it isn’t possible to do a sensible comparison with prior-year accounts • In October 2019 there was £6,040 cash balance, and in September 2022 it was £6,059 so the financial position has remained the same despite the lack of activity! • The stable financial position is due to generous support from our sponsors, membership remaining much the same (about 100 members) and the fact that we haven’t been spending money as we haven’t been holding events • However, the healthy accounts for 2022 don’t reflect all the costs of running events as some of the normal expenses were actually incurred in an earlier year and not used until this year. The fact that all costs are increasing may also not be reflected because of this • The cost of speakers has probably almost doubled in the last 4-5 years and ensuring we can afford to pay their fees means we can widen the possibilities of who we invite to give talks <p>After much discussion, the committee has decided that it is necessary to increase some of the charges that the Society levies. In the current climate it is a shame to have to do this, but the</p>	

	<p>charges have not been increased for many years and we need to be sensible and to ensure that we don't start to use the reserves for "normal" activities.</p> <p>Questions from the floor:</p> <p>1) <i>Are there any plans for the reserves?</i> There are no plans as yet but if we can maintain the current equilibrium in the finances then that will give us the opportunity to look at ways the funds might be used. We have given donations in previous years such as the High Street planter and a "cloud" in the Small Hall. We have also been able to make capital investments such as purchasing the Show tables, and recently a new printer</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> – John Denmark is happy to continue. No-one else was proposed. John'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 remaining members of the committee are happy to continue. No one else came forward to join so the committee therefore consists of Diana Dean, John Denmark, Kath Else, Chris Fitzgerald, Anna Hanson, Peter Leather, Lin Littlefield, Marilyn Murch, Paul Murch, Anna Toeman and Margaret Wildig.</p>	
7	<p>Changes to membership subscriptions and entry fees</p> <p>The committee proposes the following increase in charges, to apply from 2023:</p> <p>Annual Membership Subs: increase from £3.00 to £5.00 Patron Membership Subs: increase from £6.00 to £8.00 Entrance Fees to the Shows: increase from £1.00 to £2.00 (members still have free entry) Entrance to talks: members increase from £2.00 to £3.00, non-members increase from £2.50 to £4.00 The fee for entering exhibits into the Shows remains the same at 20p per class (free for children)</p> <p>Peter Leather proposed that these increases be accepted. Seconded by Chris Fitzgerald. Approved by a show of hands</p>	
7	<p>AOB</p> <p>a) <i>After the talk given by Mrs Vaun Wilkins on Lydeard House, she had offered to give us a tour of her garden. Is this going to be possible?</i> It would definitely be a lovely thing to do – we will make enquiries and hope to form a plan. With the cost of coach hire rapidly increasing, we may have to get there by car-share</p> <p>Paul concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for coming.</p>	

The meeting was followed by refreshments and then an excellent demonstration by Annabelle Gregory who showed us how to make a lampshade, and how to do needle-felting.

Approval of minutes (to take place at the 2023 AGM) –