

Farringdon Horticultural Society
Minutes of the AGM 2017/18
Held on 29th November 2018 7:30pm
at the Golden Pheasant

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from: Caroline Roe

2 MINUTES

Minutes of the 2016/17 AGM were presented to the meeting for approval. Acceptance of minutes was proposed by Mark Westcott, seconded by Calley Horton and were duly signed by the Chair.

3 MATTERS ARISING

No matters raised.

4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Difficult weather conditions made for a challenging year in gardens.

Entries to the spring show were considerably down, due to the weather. However judges at both spring & summer events were impressed with the high standard of entries from such a small village.

New for 2018, the Great Onion Challenge organised by David Horton was very successful, the winner was Iain Ross, 2nd place Judy Ross,

Plans already in place to stage event in 2019.

Open Garden event, again a successful day thanks to the owners who opened gardens. Thanks due to Mark Westcott for the impressive programme which drew compliments from many visitors.

Two proposed garden visits were cancelled at owners' requests due to weather conditions. We were able to visit a Japanese themed garden in Fleet and the more traditional Silchester Hall. Both these were very enjoyable afternoons.

Our quiz night in October was poorly attended, but good fun for those who came along. We hope to work on numbers so it can be a regular event.

Chair thanked committee for their hard work through the year and looked forward to 2019.

Something to consider going forward - should we continue to stage a Spring Show when 2018 only attracted total of 9 people entering in a variety of classes?

More positively, we already have plans for 2019, these include a private visit to grounds of Winchester College, kindly arranged by Alex Roe.

Chair hopes to arrange a talk at the Maltings Alton but this needs a high profile speaker (e.g. Chris Beardshaw) in order to charge min.£15 p.p. We would need to sell tickets through other local societies.

Further details for 2019 programme are shown under item 7.

5 **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Copy of accounts circulated to meeting.

Society is keeping head above water buy only just. Currently holding over £500.

Membership only 25 last year compared to 42 this year.

Costs of purchasing a new cup (Brian Williams Memorial) together with engraving that and existing show cups plus a repair were considerable, but necessary.

Both shows are run at loss as no entry fees are charged. Federation membership & insurance are both costly. Current funds have been boosted by Open Garden event.

6 **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Meeting asked to approve re-election of officers en bloc, this proposed by David Horton, seconded by Sue ,motion approved unanimously.

Mark Westcott standing down from committee due to other commitments.

New committee members would be very welcome.

7 **PLANS FOR 2019**

Chrys Browne outlined plans already in place for next year:

March Group visit to Wisley

April Spring Show

May Private visit to Winchester College grounds

June Hints & tips for displaying plants including plant exchange

July

August Summer Show

Sept. Visit to Savill Gardens (£10 pp)

Talk on "Winter Plants" by Thomas Stone incl sale of plants

Oct Quiz night

Nov AGM.

8 **AOB**

David Horton asked for better communication, programme for 2019 to be published on website and updated as necessary. This can be done.

Also he expected donation to church from Open Garden event to be 50% of profit but, as per minutes from last year, the figure agreed was 25%. The cream teas did not sell as well as expected, feeling of meeting was that more variety needed to be offered.

Sheila Elderton has agreed to act as membership secretary in order to focus efforts to attract new members. A letter will go to all new residents including contact numbers for FHS information.

New members' event suggested by Amanda agreed a good idea.

FHS database so direct contact made to members. This has been discussed before but not everyone gives email information and all events are circulated on Farringdon net and published on website and in the village magazine, but opinion was that many people ignored these forums. Committee will re-examine database suggestion.

Meeting felt that subscription should be raised to £10, and voted by majority 8:3 to do so. This will create difficulty with standing orders already in place and implementing will need discussion.

Meeting agreed unanimously that prize money at shows should be discontinued, certificates were sufficient. Society will continue to pay for engraving of cups. David Horton proposed removing multiple entries from shows, before agreeing to this Chrys Browne felt that schedule of classes needed to be examined. This was referred back to committee to action as necessary, along with suggestion of charging fee of 50p per entry, up to max of £5 for 10 or more. Mark Westcott thanked Phyll on behalf of meeting for her patience and perseverance throughout the year.

Meeting closed 8.50pm