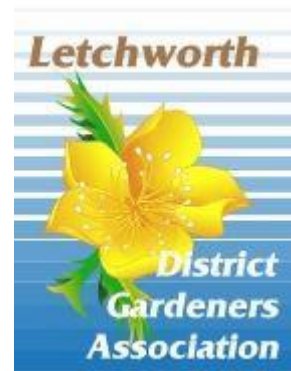


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Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Date Thursday 19th November 2009
Venue Guide Headquarters
Icknield Way
Letchworth Garden City
Time 7.45 p.m.



Present

Mrs M Hersee MBE (Chairman)		
Mrs T Bond (Secretary)		
Mr R W Cannon (Treasurer)	Dr P Faulkner	Gina Kempe
Mr T Chilvers	Mr LD Cook MBE	Doreen Lewis
John Hoyland	Mrs PA Cannon	Jo Tofts
Jo Schurch	Doreen Lewis	Mrs Josie Lusty
Ann Collins	Mrs V Tomkins	Clive Collins
Anne Young	Zena Truscott	Jill Mahoney
J Powell	Roz Jennings	Shirley Bywood
A Powell	K Starkey	Paul Heydon
Ann Hankin	Elaine Wigglesworth	Maureen Faulkner
John Humphries	Roz Dollman	Paul Ashwell
Sheila Ashwell	Frances Spurrier	Mrs T Colman
Gene Knights	Mr Ashwell	Roy Butt
Andrew Dear	Kathy Bee	Mrs Ashwell
Andy Walmsley	Peter Hollingsworth	Angela Hollingsworth

1 Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed the members to the Annual General Meeting.

2 Apologies

Robin Gale
John Tomkins
Catherine Antrobus
Sheila Bywaters

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

Tina Bond read out the minutes of the last meeting. There were no comments on the previous minutes. They were therefore agreed and signed as a true record.

4 Matters Arising

- 4.1 Centenary Tree – Maureen reported that she had been to see the Copper Beech tree that had been planted in the Arboretum at Manor Wood. The plaque was in hand and would be placed as soon as it had been made.
- 4.2 Store Maintenance – This would be covered in the financial report and accounts.

5 Accounts

Roger reported that the accounts were good. He stated that the repairs to the roof and guttering of the store had been agreed and will go ahead.

He proposed that Messrs Keens Shay Keens be reappointed for a further year, all were in favour.

6 Store

Peter reported a successful year at the store despite the decrease in membership. He informed the members that the compost had sold very well. He informed the members that there had been a break in to the outside store area and 8 bags of compost had been stolen. He confirmed that the seeds had arrived for next year. He reported that some insecticides would be withdrawn from the market as well as a restriction on the use of peat.

Peter reported that there was a shredder now available at the store for hire; this had been donated by one of the members.

All members were asked to note the following changes of operation at the store:

- The first day of opening will be Sunday 31st January 2010
- Opening times from January to the end of July will be 9 am to 12.30pm
- Opening times from 1st August to the end of November 9 am to midday
- The store will be open on the first Wednesday of each month from February to May between 1pm and 2.30pm only

7 Shows

Paul Heydon reported that the 2 shows went well this year. Unfortunately the visitor numbers are dwindling despite the improved advertising. The exhibiting numbers were about the same as last year. There has been an increase in help this year, which has been positive. A number of classes are to be expanded for next year's shows including gladioli and sweet peas. As there was no real interest in the chrysanthemums this year, it was agreed not to continue with the affiliation to the chrysanthemum association.

8 Membership

Jo Schurch reported that there had been a loss of members due to:

- Loss of collectors
- Postage instead of hand delivery
- Death of members

Jo was pleased to confirm that there had been some new volunteers recently for taking on the role of collector and we are nearly up to the full number of collectors.

9 Report

Maureen reported that there had been just over 300 attendees at Gardeners question time held in Letchworth in the summer. The event went extremely well and was very well received from those who attended.

Maureen updated the members on a new venture, which is offering 4 workshops for beginners, who may have a new allotment or want to know how to grow their own vegetables. Jo Schurch, Jo Tofts and Maureen have been putting the programme together and the workshops will commence in March 2010 for 4 Saturdays held at the store. The cost for the course will be £15 per person. The subjects covered will include:

- Soil type and preparation
- Crop rotation
- Sowing and planting
- What to grow

Maureen asked the membership to pass this information on to those who may be

interested in attending.

Maureen explained the concept of growing for giving and asked members to grow extra produce and then give to those less fortunate or give to organisations that may benefit from fresh produce.

Maureen asked again for support at events and activities that the association were involved in. She stated that at these events it tends to be the same group of people that support the association. She asked for volunteers to help out at future events and also to help in the store.

Maureen informed the membership of a request that had been made from Transition; they had asked if it was possible to have an associate membership to the LDGA. It was proposed that a fee of £25 be charged annually for associate membership and this would be reviewed annually. This would also be discussed further at the committee meeting to finalise the details.

Maureen offered a change of venue for both the committee meetings, Thursday Lectures and the AGM in future. This was to be the Methodist church hall on Pixmore Way. The venue needed to be changed, as there was no longer sufficient parking next to or near the Guide Hall. This was agreed.

Maureen stated the updated address and details will be highlighted in the next Compost Heap together with a request for donations from non-members attending the Thursday meetings.

Maureen thanked the committee and the helpers for their hard work and support throughout the year. She thanked Thelma for organising the refreshments for the AGM.

10 Election of Committee Members

The Chairman said the following members have offered to stand for election to the Committee Kathy Bee, Roger Cannon, Stephen Carr, Laurie Cook, Peter Faulkner, Paul Heydon, Thelma Colman, Tommy Cox, Pam Manfield, Roy Butt, Ann Hankin, Jo Schurch, Sheila Bywaters and Maureen Hersee, these were duly elected as there were no further nominations.

Maureen Hersee was re-elected as Chairman. Tina Bond proposed and this was seconded by Peter Hollingsworth

11 AOB

Request for committee secretary

It is with regret that Tina Bond has had to step down as secretary this year. She has been the secretary of the Association for a number of years but her work commitments have meant that she is now unable to support the association in this role. She encouraged members to come and speak to her about taking on the role. Maureen thanked Tina for her support over the years and asked for any interested members to speak to her about the position.

Maureen informed the members that Hitchin Lavender had a selection of Christmas cards and gifts for sale during the Christmas season.

Maureen then closed the meeting and asked the members to enjoy the refreshments offered before John Hoyland's presentation.