

LLANTWIT MAJOR HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 26th October 2022 at 19.30 at LLantonian Hall, Llantwit Major

Present

Bill Lee Chairperson, Albert Payne Vice Chairperson, Kath Pugh Treasurer, Alison Leach General Secretary, Cath Thomas Speaker Secretary, Elizabeth Rees Trips Secretary and Store Support, Tim Prior Show and Events Secretary, Ken Jones General Member, plus 30 members.

Apologies for Absence

1. We had 22 apologies, and the complete list is attached to these minutes at Appendix 1. Hard copies of the minutes were available to members to circulate at the meeting. Alan Price proposed we accepted the minutes, and this was seconded by Cath Thomas, and the vote to accept the minutes as accurate was unanimous.

2. Chairperson Report

May I start the meeting by thanking you all for your attendance here tonight. I realise that during these difficult times there is a reluctance to attend group meetings.

I must on your behalf thank your hardworking committee, I think they have held the society together during these very unusual times.

To save money, your committee have held their summer monthly meetings in the store saving on venue hire charges. Dealing with a problem when your desk is a bag of compost is no mean feat!

I will not pick out individuals on the committee for praise because I have witnessed the effort put in by all of them to ensure the continuation of our very successful Society. Without their very hard work Our society would have been unable to continue.

Many of you are aware that I normally travel the whole of Wales judging vegetable shows, this year I have done but two. It's sad to see so many of the Welsh Societies no longer functioning because of the pandemic. Our Society, without your continued support has managed to weather the storm.

I do not have to remind you of the continued outstanding success of the store. Many members have said to me that it is amazing how the store has remained stocked and working throughout these difficult times.

The Annual Show this year was excellent. Many people came to me on the day thank you for a wonderful show.

Many of you will not be aware of the ongoing saga stretching back to 2010 concerning the ownership of the land on which our store stands. At last, however, we were able to purchase it and after a short period relaxing, the problem of the dividing wall between the Fire Station and the store, which was falling down, raised its head, I am delighted to report that the wall has been made safe by the fire service at no expense to us.

To finish off the job clearing the ground of briars and brambles adjacent to the wall is a job in hand. Money has been set aside to get rid of the very rough growth with an appropriate contractor.

Can I once again thank you all for your continued support of the Society and in particular a very big thank you to your hard-working committee.

3. Treasurers report

Firstly, thank you to David Davies for examining the accounts for us.

Bank interest, initially £0.39 per quarter, has now increased to £4.89 in September.

Talks were resumed in February. Whereas we used to pay £30 per Speaker, due to rise in fuel costs etc. we now pay £45 or more if long distance travel is an issue.

Subscription income was £1643.50, a little less than last year, some members have again just disappeared or cancelled, 25 people still pay £2.

Rents were paid to the Council for both Talks and Committee Meetings. The Committee met in the Store from April through the Summer as it seemed logical to do what we had done when the LLantonian Hall was not available during the pandemic.

Expenses of £93.22 were claimed by the Committee, £63.21 by me for 2019 -22 for stamps, ink & stationery, £20 for our own key to the LLantonian Hall and £10.01 for Teas. Of the rest, £237.50, £137.50 was paid to Edenvale Garden Services via the Town Council for clearing the wall adjoining the Fire Station and £100 for the removal of the remaining debris which was cleared by a Society working party lead by Dave Martin.

There were no trips. However, Elizabeth has been working hard, as usual, writing articles for the Newsletter, amongst other things, and is now organising an Isle of Wight Trip as well as a Christmas one.

The insurance premium, [covering the shop, its contents, the society's equipment & third-party liability] was £16 more than last year, which was again considered reasonable.

The show was a great success. Tim will give you the details. However, it should be noted that we received a Grant of £600 from Nisa - Making a Difference Locally and a total of £154.50 had been paid out in 2020 and 2021 for raffle prizes, stationary and new trophies which were used this year.

Affiliations to both the National Vegetable Society and the RHS were paid by STO.

Gwennan has again put a lot of hours and effort into the website to keep the Society 'alive' and members up to date with newsletters, advertising Talks, Local Events, the Show and Store information etc. She has been running the website since 2015 when she set it up and still charges us the same hourly rate. This year the Committee has agreed to increase the budget from £500 to £750 as maintenance of the site is becoming more expensive and costs are continuing to rise.

The shop sales were still good due to Dave's hard work, sales were not quite as good as last year, possibly due to people being out and about more so shopping elsewhere.

Overall, there was an excess of nearly £1,000 of income over expenditure.

4. Show Secretary's Report

I will start this short report hopefully by reiterating what I have said previously in the formal show report that was available online. And it is simply thank you! Thank you to everyone who supported our show this year; principally our exhibitors and visitors, our grant giver' Filco supermarkets 'Make a difference locally' Also those who supported us on the day, your committee members, the judges, Matt the photographer, our refreshment ladies, the ladies on the door, our wonderful registrars and raffle ticket sellers, Gwennan for the posters and web support. Finally, the businesses who provided raffle prizes. Without your commitment this annual event would be a hard task indeed. There is one last and special thank you I would like to say and that is to Sheena Serjeant, our long-serving home produce judge. Due to an ongoing illness, she has had to hang up her knives and spoons, you will be missed but not forgotten!

So, after months of indeterminable weather of extreme periods of heat and sudden heavy downpours at the wrong time we staged our show, our first since 2019 and the Covid crisis. I really did not know what to expect and a few people said they were going to exhibit, pleased to say we all did very well. It was noticeable that there were gaps in the classes, mainly in the flower sections, which was quite understandable, and I must take my hat off to those who managed to exhibit in these classes. The top vases and other vases full of color and flowers of all shapes and sizes, well done, very pleasing on the eyes.

The vegetable classes were very well represented with only 5 not being entered, most only had a couple of entries and there was some quality to the exhibits, a kind remark from our judge Dennis. I will say there was more variety here than at the Vale show. The tomatoes were very well subscribed, and my congratulations must go to Ken Jones who's Tom's won not only best vegetable in the show but also best show exhibit overall.

I mentioned earlier that our stalwart judge of Home Produce had to retire due to ill health, so we were very pleased to welcome our new and keen judge Jayne Thomas from St Donats. I understand she really enjoyed herself ably assisted by her stewards

Jarrold and Polly. The home produce tables looked healthy with a nice selection of baking, brews, jams and chutneys. These judges are brave people sampling produce that in some cases have been packed away for nearly a year and still survive to tell the tale. I understand that some of the brews were near lethal!

This year's show was blessed by five young people aged between 5 and 10 who between them filled eighteen feet of display tables, two entering every class they could. Their creativity was beautifully displayed and very imaginative. There was natural foliage and floral vases full, miniature gardens so intricate that they must have had the patience of saints. So to you five young people thank you too for what you did. Not quite youngsters were our novices, the newbies who decided to be judged for the first time, thanks for trying, it wasn't that frightening an experience and come and join us all again next year.

So overall was it a good show,? yes I think it was! We missed some of our usual exhibitors but were able to welcome some new blood and I hope the support and friendly advice they received will mean they will exhibit again. Talking of which there was plenty of space available to double the number of exhibits to over 400, your show needs your support your posy or pot of jam. Think about it for next year as it will be on August 19th, 2023, so make it a date in your diary and support us any way you can.

Last of all a few facts: there were 171 exhibits from 33 exhibitors. 178 visitors. £300 paid in prize money and the giant cucumber was 22 inches long and weighed 5lbs!

5. Election of Office Holders and Committee

The Chairperson explained that all office holders resign at the AGM, and it was confirmed that all the committee and the other office holders were willing to stand again and asked if there were any comments. Nobody asked any questions and it was proposed that we take the vote on block, and this was proposed by Alan Price and seconded by Dawn Payne. A vote was taken to re-elect all the existing office holders and the vote was unanimous.

The Chairperson then explained to the meeting that there was a vacancy on the committee for a general person. Cherrill Barrett was proposed by Liz Rees and seconded by Chris Jones. Cherrill accepted the role and the vote taken was unanimous.

The meeting also voted on the Trustees who are Chris Jones and Sylvia Geary. They were both at the meeting and said they were happy to be re-elected. They were proposed by Liz Rees and seconded by Cath Thomas and vote of the meeting was unanimously approved.

The Independent Financial Examiner was proposed to be David Davies by Kath Pugh and seconded by Ken Jones and the vote taken was unanimously approved.

The Chairperson then presented two lifetime certificates to Elizabeth Rees and Kath Pugh.

6. Any Other business.

The Chairperson confirmed that there was one proposal to alter the constitution to make it Gender Free and an amended copy of the proposed changes had been drafted. Alison Leach had made the proposal on 9th October, more than 14 days prior to the AGM. This amended document was emailed to the committee and no comments had been made. The Chairperson asked if anyone would second the proposal and this was seconded by Cath Thomas.

Albert Payne addressed the meeting with his thoughts. He considered that using the word Chair was difficult for him as it was something to sit on with legs and a back. However, on reading out the definition, he did accept that it can also refer to someone in authority or in charge of a debate. He asked the meeting that instead of the word Chair we used the expression Chairperson.

He put this proposal to the meeting to alter the wording in the draft proposal that Alison Leach had put forward. This was seconded by Alan Price and the room voted unanimously. The Constitution is therefore changed, and all the amendments accepted other than reference to Chairman to be changed to Chairperson. The amended constitution is attached to these minutes at appendix 2.

No other proposals have been received by anyone on the committee 14 days prior to the AGM and therefore the meeting closed at 20.20.

Alison Leach

Secretary

Llantwit Major Horticultural Society

Llantwit Major Horticultural Society Annual General Meeting 2022

Written Apologies

Appendix 1 to the minutes of the AGM

1. Margaret Lloyd
2. Williams Aspinall
3. Annabel Aspinall
4. Russell Bateman
5. Carolyn Bateman
6. Irene Shaddick
7. Chris Prior
8. Richard Leach
9. Jarrod Windsor
10. Polly Windsor
11. Chris Burford
12. Harry Bardsley
13. Barbara Payne
14. Richard Vidler
15. Janine Vidler
16. Carol Fredrick
17. Sandra Heyman
18. Richard Tait
19. Margaret Dean
20. David Davies
21. David Martin
22. Melanie Cunningham

CONSTITUTION

LLANTWIT MAJOR HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

1. The name of the Society shall be Llantwit Major Horticultural Society.
2. The object of the Society shall be to promote the achievement of good horticultural practices in the locality.
3. The membership of the Society will be limited to a maximum figure which will be determined at the Annual General Meeting (AGM 2009 – 650 paying members). Any rise in the maximum figure will be limited to a value of no more than 10% of the current figure. The spouses/partners of paying members are eligible to be Associate Members with full voting rights. The Committee is empowered at its discretion and without disclosing its reasons to refuse an application or renewal of membership.
4. The Officers of the Society shall be a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. No persons shall hold more than one office at a time.
5. The Officers and Committee Members shall be elected at a General Meeting of the Society and shall hold office until the elections of the next Annual General Meeting when they shall retire but be eligible for re-election.
6. The affairs of the Society shall be conducted by a committee consisting of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Store Manager (if applicable) and five other members.
7. An Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held in October of every year for the purpose of:
 - a) Receiving the Committee's report on the work of the Society during the proceeding year and a financial statement and Balance Sheet signed by the Independent Examiner.
 - b) Any other business of which notice has been given to members or which the Chairperson shall rule is in order.
 - c) The election of Officers and Members of the Committee.

8. The Committee may convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society any time and shall do so within four weeks upon the receipt of a written request signed by at least 25 members of the Society. A written notice must be sent to all members not less than 7 days before such a meeting setting forth the date, time, place and purpose of the Meeting and no business other than that mentioned in the notice shall be transacted.
9. The Chairperson, or in his absence the Vice Chairperson, or in their joint absence, the Treasurer of the Society shall chair any General Meetings of the Society.
10. The quorum of a General Meeting shall consist of 30 members and the quorum of a Committee Meeting shall consist of 5 members. In the event of an equality of votes the Chairperson of any meeting shall have a second or casting vote but not to make up a quorum.
11. Voting shall be by show of hands unless the Chairperson of the meeting shall direct that a secret ballot be taken.
12. The subscription shall be reviewed annually. Subscriptions shall become due on the first day of January in every year.
13. No person shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Society, or to any other privilege of Membership until their subscription for the current year has been paid. Any Member whose subscription for the current year is unpaid on the last day of January shall cease to be a member after that day.
14. All subscriptions and other monies shall be passed to the Treasurer who will be responsible for all the Society's funds and for keeping accounts thereof. All sums received by them on the Society's behalf shall be paid into the Society's banking account and all cheques drawn on that account shall be signed by any two from: The Chairperson, the Treasurer or the Secretary. The funds of the Society shall be used solely for furthering the Society's object and only in ways sanctioned by the Committee or by a General Meeting.
15. An Independent Examiner for the ensuing year shall be elected at every Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election. No Officer or Member of the Committee shall be eligible to be Independent Examiner.

16. If the Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary or any Member of the Committee should die or resign before the expiration of their term of office, the Committee may fill the vacancy, but the person so appointed shall retire at the time when their predecessor would have retired but shall be eligible for re-election. Should an ordinary Member of the Committee become Chairperson, Treasurer or Secretary, the vacancy on the Committee shall be filled in the same way as if the Member had resigned from the Committee.
17. These rules may be amended only at any Annual General Meeting of the Society and only if notice of the proposed deletion or addition has been sent to all Members not less than fourteen days before the meeting.
18. The Committee may at their discretion award Life Membership to such Members who have in the opinion of the Committee given outstanding service to the Society.
19. No more than 15 Members will hold Life Membership at any one time.
20. In the event of the Society being disbanded, the procedure for winding up the Society's affairs shall be as follows:
 - a) An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society shall be convened to consider the proposed disbandment.
 - b) At the meeting a majority vote of at least 80% will be needed for the disbandment to proceed.
 - c) In the event of the disbandment, the assets of the Society will be auctioned in Llantwit Major by Chartered Auctioneers appointed by the outgoing Committee.
 - d) The Society's liquidated assets will be donated to the Royal Horticultural Society.

Last amended at the Annual General Meeting of 25th October 2017 at Clause 6.

Amended 26th October 2022 to make the constitution Gender free and the ballot referred to ipara11 added Secret para 17 the word Annual