



Annual General Meeting

Thursday February 15th 2018 at 7.45pm

Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2017
4. Matters arising from minutes of last AGM
5. Financial Report
6. Chairman's Report
7. Election of Committee

Following offered to stand again – John Brookbanks, Andrew Dear, Maureen Hersee, Paul Heydon, Jo Schurch, Myra Smith, Jo Tofts

Additional nomination received for committee – Diane Pohlman

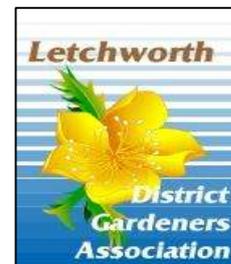
8. Election of Chairman
9. Any Other Business

Break for Refreshments

10. Presentation from Alison Shersby of Growing People
11. Raffle + Close
12. Next AGM 21st February 2019 location TBA

****Please note only paid up members for 2018 can vote at the AGM and green membership cards need to be used for the voting****

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 16th February 2017



Venue: Central Methodist Church Hall, Pixmore Way, Letchworth

Present: Gina Kempe, Jenny Gentle, Wendy Gross, Tom Chilvers, Doreen Lewis, Roz Jennings, Andrew Dear, John Brookbanks, John Humphries, Elaine Wrigglesworth, Ros Dollman, Diane Ketcher, Graham Tapp, Paul Heydon, Peter Faulkner, Jo Schurch Thelma Colman, Myra Smith, Kathy Bee, Catherine Antrobus, Peter Hollingsworth, Frances Spurrier, Angela Mayes, R Sprigg, R Gray, A Smith, Val Aitken, Irene Beardsall, Liz Kirby, Christine Bylett, Evelyn Goodwin, Karl Griffin, Annie Hankin, Zena Truscott

Chair: Maureen Hersee

Minutes: Jo Tofts

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies from: Amanda Collinson and Lauren Cameron.

3. Minutes of AGM 18th February 2016

Minutes and agendas have been circulated by email and all members of the committee are sitting at the main table. All agreed they are accurate and true record.

4. Matters arising – no matters arising.

5. Financial report – the treasurer is not with us tonight but has provided us with a brief report.

Membership and trading fell over the year. Copies of the accounts have been circulated to the membership. They have been produced by the new accountants Ledgers. John Humphries – concerned that we have made a loss at the trading store – a lot of people have put in such a huge effort to run the store on behalf of the association and we have still made a loss. We were hoping that we had made a profit as this is used to prop up the rest of the association's activities. Some of the money has been used for repairs to the store such as electrical work, forklift maintenance and now we need some work doing to the walls. We feel it will be the same this year. We do have over 40k in reserve mainly for the store but we have to chip away at the reserves to maintain the trading store.

Peter Hollingsworth proposed we use Ledger again for next year – Seconded John Humphries, majority agreed.

6. Reports

Graham's report – we are running a facility at the back of the garden centre for disabled youngsters. 12 students regularly work on the site. Next week we have a visit from the council with a view to helping more disabled students. Currently have 12 beds up and running with garlic etc. planted. We have had help from Tesco who sent out a working party to get the project up and running. Cllr. Val Shanley has donated 20 tonnes of topsoil and a local farmer has moved it. NHDC has given us a grant of £400, Balstock have donated £720 from the proceeds of the festival. Also two Civic Awards have been awarded to Graham and Greenshoots from Rotary. GT would like to thank everyone for supporting us. Tesco gave us the breakthrough we needed to get the project up and running. LDGA would like to thank him and its an honour to be associated with it.

Di Ketcher asked where she could find this report – currently not written anywhere. Andrew advised we have a Greenshoots page on the LDGA website.

The Meetings, Shows, Trading and Membership Secretaries read from their reports.

Chairman's report - Maureen thanked the committee, the shows are a success and the cookery demonstration is now an annual feature. The floristry was good and again will be booked for this year. There are new handicraft and photography classes.

Thelma has done a fantastic job on finding and booking speakers. Attendance is disappointing at times so please spread the word.

The look of the trading store has improved and thanks to John Brookbanks for doing a lot of it. Most of the potatoes have sold out and potato day went down really well.

Peter would like to relinquish the post of trading secretary and now has an excellent team working at the trading store so the job of trading secretary is not as bad as first thought. Ordering of stock is the main role we need help with.

Meena who did the 'Compost Heap' and publicity has resigned due to the pressure of her job. Andrew has now taken over this role alongside website editor and would like some photos and articles. Andrew would like to hand over the role of schools liaison.

Coffee mornings – a great success at Tapps.

The Salad evening during national allotment week had a very disappointing turn out so we are not running it again. Stotfold Mill plant sale went ahead but wasn't publicised very well and turn out reflected that. We are doing it again this year in June.

The outing to Wisley was fabulous – thank you to Myra for organising it. Myra has also organised two outings this year – Capel Manor and Hyde Hall. Myra is also the organising the sausage sizzle social which is happening next month.

We are having a stand at Royston May Fair on 1st May and Garden Organic.

Maureen thanked the committee for all their help and support and to the members for supporting us.

8. Election of committee – the following have offered to stand again – Peter Faulkner, Paul Heydon, Jo Schurch, Jo Tofts, Andrew Dear, Maureen Hersee, and Amanda Collinson. Andrew has nominated Myra Smith for committee, seconded by John Brookbank, majority agreed and John Humphries proposed John Brookbanks, seconded by Myra Smith, majority agreed. The rest of the committee was elected en bloc.

Thelma is standing down this year. We (Thelma included) do not know how long she has been doing it for but we wish her well. Maureen presented Thelma with a thank you gift from the Association.

Maureen has stood down at this point

9. Election of Chairman

Nominations have expired and Graham proposed that Maureen is re-elected as Chairman. All agreed.

10. AOB

Tom Chilvers – how many vice presidents have we got? We will look it up and let you know.

Di Ketcher asked about the connection between the council and the allotments. Maureen replied that in the past we had regular monthly updates from the council and could advise members accordingly. We were told that the handing back to the Heritage Foundation was happening as of last year but nothing has materialised. We no longer get lists of vacant plots due to data protection issues and they wanted to charge us several thousand pounds so the committee decided against it.

Myra commented on her allotment – is with the LGCHF and she has not paid rent on it despite chasing it has still not paid her rent.

We are not an Association purely for allotment holders but since one doesn't exist we do try and represent their interests whenever possible. We did join the National Allotment Association but there were no real benefits for LDGA members.

11. Presentation from Liz Towler of the LCGHF

12. Raffle and close

13. Next Annual General Meeting 15th February 2018