

# Southowram Horticultural and Allotments Society

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the New Street Centre, Southowram on Wednesday, 30 November 2016

Eighteen members were welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman, Arthur Bastide.

1. **Apologies for absence** Apologies were received from Catherine Carus, June Kay, Elaine Mills, Doreen Pinder and Angela Sowerbutts.
2. **The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25 November 2015** were accepted and signed as an accurate record.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### 3. **Chairman's remarks**

The Chairman commented on another successful year, although it was disappointing that both membership and attendance at meetings appeared to be dropping.

### 4. **Secretary's report**

The Secretary reported that membership currently stands at 37. Attendance at meetings has been consistent, with an average of 23, which is the same as 2015.

Four members offered their services to Withinfields School in March following their request for assistance in planting up displays around the school.

During the summer, Linda Bamford resigned as assistant treasurer, and Steve McCulloch offered to take on the role.

We wrote to Marshalls seeking sponsorship for our annual show but were not successful. However, George Proberts kindly covered the costs of printing show schedules and fliers, and Bill Bailey paid for the medals presented to the winners of the children's classes. Thank you to both for their support. We reduced the number of cups presented so that we were able to discard some of the well-worn trophies.

### 5. **Treasurer's report**

The balance sheet prepared by the Treasurer was considered. Kat reported that member subscriptions are down, and speaker fees were £60 lower than the previous year. The loss on the annual show (£250.25) was the lowest for a number of years and greatly benefited from the printing costs and purchase of medals being covered by members. The accounts show a healthy balance of £2,390.54.

Kat suggested that show entry fees should be increased in 2017.

### 6. **Show Secretary's report**

The Show Secretary reported another successful and enjoyable show. There had been one unfortunate incident when a raffle prize was stolen. Pauline agreed that entry fees should be increased next year.

## **7. Election of Officers for 2016**

Betty Barlow reported her intention to resign from the role of joint auditor. It was proposed by Bill Bailey and seconded by Tony Hill that a letter of thanks be sent to her.

It was proposed by Betty Barlow and seconded by Winifred Russell that other roles be elected en-bloc: Agreed unanimously.

- (a) President – Barbara Walker.
- (b) Chairman – Arthur Bastide.
- (c) Secretary – Margaret Coates.
- (d) Treasurer – Kat McCulloch.
- (e) Show Secretary – Kat McCulloch.
- (f) Auditor – Angela Sowerbutts.
- (g) Speaker finder – Kat McCulloch.

## **8. Show sub committee**

The following members agreed to serve on the show sub committee: Bill Bailey, Pauline Ackroyd, Kat McCulloch, Arthur Bastide, Chressy Hall, Judith Coates, Margaret Coates.

## **9. Volunteers for refreshment rota**

Patsy Hardy agreed to join the rota.

## **10. Subscription and meeting fees for 2017**

Proposed by Bill Bailey and seconded by Arthur Bastide that our annual membership fee should remain at £5 and meeting fees at £1. This was agreed unanimously.

## **11. Presentation of Margaret Bailey Trophy**

The inaugural presentation of the Margaret Bailey Trophy followed the Annual General Meeting. This trophy will be presented annually by Bill to the person he deems to have contributed most to the society over the previous year. The first recipient was Kat McCulloch for her stand-out contribution.

The evening concluded with a supper provided by members.

The raffle raised £18.50 for funds.