**Castor, Ailsworth and District Gardeners' Society**

**Minutes if the Annual Meeting**

**held in the Village Hall at 8.30 pm on 11th April 2018**

**(Preceded by a talk on bee keeping by Sue Jakeman)**

**Present:** Mr Edmund Humphries (Chairman) and 37 officers and members. The Meeting was thus quorate.

**Apologies:** Margaret Sharpe, David Ridgeway, the Tedcastles, the Hintons, the Remnants, Vincent Brierley, the Hemingrays, the Ardrons, Carol Machaoul, Ian Sheldon, Chilcot (senior) the Sansoms, the Armstrongs, the McCloughlans, Frank Bain, Sue Hodder, the Browns.

**Agenda:** Notice of Meeting (taken as read)

Apologies (see above)

Minutes of previous AGM (and matters arising)

Chairman's Report

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Election of Officers and Main Committee Members

Reviewing annual subscriptions

Possible change of title for the Society

Any other business

* **Minutes of the AGM held on 20th April 2017**

These Minutes were read aloud and approved nem con.

**2. Matters arising from those Minutes**

There were no matters arising

**3. Chairman's Remarks** (past and future)

* Another good year – thanks to hard work by committee and support from members
* Last year's AGM in April was followed by brain exercises in the form of a Peter Huckle quiz
* The May residential trip visited Hyde Hall and Beth Chatto's Garden near Colchester, thanks to the organising of our 'Trip Advisor', Tony Corke and Shaws of Maxey. They didn't organise the weather too well by Beth Chatto's Garden was beautiful, even in the drizzle!
* 3rd June – East Ruston Garden, Norfolk
* 27th June – Cathy Brown's Garden, Stevington, Bedfordshire. Two or three car loads went and enjoyed the amazing expansive garden planted and maintained by just Kathy and her husband. She also makes amazing cakes that most of us enjoyed with a welcome cup of tea.
* 4th July – Some of us joined an evening Rotary Club walking treasure hunt round Castor organised by Peter Huckle followed by supper at Milton Golf Club.
* 14th July – another BBQ and Boules evening in Peter and Ann's Garden. Very well attended and enjoyed by all.
* 19th August – ANNUAL SHOW for the first time in St Kyneburgh Church. Very successful and good attendance and many compliments were received.
* 5th November – a group of us volunteered to assist Peter and the Rotary Club plant purple crocus corms throughout the villages as part of Rotary Polio awareness campaign.
* 24th November – very enjoyable social event in the village hall with a Thai meal expertly cooked by Pear and her assistant. Plus another PH table quizz.
* 22nd February – an entertaining talk about Puddle Paddock.
* 23rd March – by popular request, another appearance of the wonderful Haley Sisters and Sliding Smiffy. An entertaining evening of music and good humour. We all went home with that feel good factor!

**Coming up (the story so far)**

* 25th April – Adam Frost at Castor School Hall
* 12th - 14th May – 3 day trip to Abbotsbury/Compton Acre/Wisley.
* 20th July Walking treasure hunt and BBQ.
* 18th August – Annual Village Show
* 2nd September – Visit to the sculpture park in Doddington Hall gardens
* 24th October – David Ridgeway – Plants from China (part 2)
* (tba) November – social evening with a middle eastern meal

**4. Secretary's Report**

Emphasis continues on accurate reporting of meetings and on defining actions arising from them. Such actions are scrupulously followed up by the Committee Members empowered to do so. When this approach was started some lesser actions were neglected but performance is now more uniform.

It is this emphasis on accountability which helps drive the Society forwards, and it is now complemented by a focus on innovation, for example in the new format of the Annual Show.

I have enjoyed my time as Secretary of the Society and hope I am handing over a responsive system to my successor.

I wish the Society every success in the future

**5. Treasurer's Report**

David Edwards reminded the Meeting that the Data Protection Act 2018 applies to the Society, particularly in protecting the use of members' names. Disclaimer forms would be circulated to protect the Society, with instructions on how to complete them.

Accounts for 2017/8 were circulated showing income of £6218.65 and expenditure of £3820.20. Total assets of the Society were thus £2398.45. Sums held by Barclays Bank were being run down through Direct Debits. The Treasurer felt that the Society's assets were sound and adequate.

**6. Election of Officers and Main Committee Members**

With Adrian Davies not for Secretary, a replacement would need to be co-opted, following a meeting of the Main Committee on 12th April. Nominations for Committee Members filled all vacancies and these were duly proposed and agreed.

* **Annual subscriptions**

The Treasurer referred to the financial health of the Society and suggested that no increase in subscription was necessary. Adrian Davies proposed that the habit of using raffles to enhance income was becoming tedious and that the subscriptions should fill the gap from stopping reliance on raffles. This proposal was put to the Meeting and attracted only 2 votes. A vote to leave the subscription unchanged was passed by a large majority.

**8. Possible change in the title of the society**

The Chairman said that this issue was being raised as many members felt our present title – 'Castor, Ailsworth & District Gardeners' Society' – was too long. He felt that District was unnecessary and that a snappier title would aid recruitment.

Having raised the issue, the Chairman proposed that the Main Committee debate on the issue and produce a short list of possible titles to be brought to a later General Meeting. This was agreed.

* **Other business**

The Chairman hinted at the possibility of a 'top speaker' in February 2019.

Watch this space!!

Adrian Davies

Former Secretary

Signed as a correct record .................................................................

Date …........................................................................