



## Sandhurst and District Gardening Club

Minutes of the 57<sup>th</sup> AGM held at Sandhurst Community Centre on Wednesday February 20<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 7.30 pm

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Len Clark</b>
	<p>The meeting commenced at 7.50 pm. The Chairman, Len Clark welcomed all members. He explained that the minutes from the previous year's AGM would be read by Chris Dresler in a slightly edited form, due to time constraints. The full minutes were available for any member to read upon request, and would be available in the hall for the rest of the meeting.</p>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of 2018 AGM</b>	<b>Chris Dresler</b>
	<p>The minutes were read to members. The members were then asked to accept them. Proposed by: Hilary Corio                      Seconded: Betty Wilson</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Chairman's report</b>	<b>Len Clark</b>
	<p>Last February, I had the honour of taking over from Sheila as she felt that, being on a number of Council committees, as well as being Chairman of the Gardening Club, caused conflict. Having been to a number of such meetings, I appreciate her dilemma. She has, however, stayed on our committee and done a great job with arranging our excursions, which, of course, don't conflict in any way with her councillor duties. We have had a turbulent year with a number of brushes with the Council but our latest meeting with them was much more positive and, hopefully, they are going to see our point of view with regard to 2 important issues – the locking of the external gate between 10pm and the time of the end of a booking and the accessibility for unloading at the main entrance for our shows and evening meetings. Both these items are to be discussed at The Fees and Hiring Committee and then forwarded to the Strategy and Policy Committee. Fingers crossed. I have kept you up to date with all the problems and proposals at club nights throughout the year but will answer any questions you might have now. If you do have concerns about Club matters, affected by the Council, please contact your local councillor, not the Council directly, because many councillors, not on the Leisure Committee, have no knowledge of the problems we have had. <i>There were no questions from the floor.</i></p>	

4.	Trading Hut report	Jane Heritage
	<p>(read by Len Clark on behalf of Jane Heritage)</p> <p>Total sales for 2018 were £12,588 down from £13,218 in 2017. A drop of 4.8%. We all remember the road/gate fiasco at the beginning of the year which definitely had some effect on hut sales. Nevertheless, we have still made a healthy profit of about £1100 to support some of the club's loss-making activities, e.g. shows and club nights. The gate bell is now working well and allowing members to get to the hut to load up. Bird food purchases were down about 50% but both bulb and seed purchases were up. Hut maintenance costs were up as we did a lot of repainting, gutter repairs, etc. last year. We also gave £25 to a polio charity after being given a large quantity of garden tools, ground cover material, pots, etc. to sell at the hut. We can't stock everything the garden centres do but if you want us to consider stocking a new item, please ask and we may be able to get a good price if it can be supplied by one of our 3 main suppliers. Thank you for supporting the club by buying and thank you to everyone who has helped. We now have a sizeable group of members to help with deliveries and other jobs as and when required. Also, many members volunteer to help on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons. Without this support the hut could not operate. Thank you all again.</p> <p>Len Clark added that it is sometimes difficult to get helpers for hut duty, and he asked members to reply to his emails even if they were unable to help; he would then know whether to approach other people to help.</p>	
5.	Treasurer's report	Marilyn Grant
	<p>FINANCIAL STATEMENT</p> <p>INCOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As you are aware 2018 was a difficult year for the trading hut because of the problems with the road and the gate, so hut sales (excluding sales to California Gardening club of £973) were down £1,603 or 12%. This coupled with a small decrease in the profit margin led to a reduction in profits of £430.</li> <li>• The income from Subscriptions increased by £358 to £1,608 due to the increased rate.</li> <li>• Building Society interest fell again this year as interest rates are now down at 0.01%.</li> </ul> <p>EXPENSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most areas of expenses were broadly in line with last year.</li> <li>• Donations were made to several charities including Polio, Royal British Legion and Poppy Appeal.</li> <li>• Sundry expenses increased by £117 on 2017. This included £100 for plants for the border in the Memorial Park and for the Chelsea Fringe.</li> <li>• Depreciation of leasehold property refers to writing off the cost of the trading hut at £845 per year over 25 years.</li> <li>• Depreciation of Equipment is writing off the cost of new tables and new trophies that were bought for the Club's shows.</li> </ul>	

	<p><b>PROFIT/LOSS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deficit on Activities was £1,504 compared to £1,260 in 2017, an increase of £244.</li> <li>The loss on club nights this year increased by £171, mainly due to higher hall costs and judges/speakers' fees, although refreshment income decreased by £40 too.</li> <li>The deficit on the Christmas party was lower by £155 due to higher ticket prices.</li> <li>The overall loss on the summer and autumn shows was broadly in line with the previous year at £713 compared to £699.</li> <li>Unfortunately, the coach trips made a loss of £211 in 2018 after making a profit of £3 in 2017. The Slimbridge trip had to be cancelled due to bad weather and Compton Acres and the London Walk trip both made losses of £141 and £217 respectively. Penshurst Place made a profit of £147. As has been said before, we do need members to support the trips for them to be viable.</li> </ul> <p><b>CASH RESOURCES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total cash resources in Building Society and Bank at the year-end were £15,620 which is £772 lower than in 2017.</li> </ul> <p><i>Question from the floor:</i></p> <p><i>Has the committee contacted the council regarding the loss of revenue due to the hut having to close while the new road was being laid to ask for some recompense to be made?</i></p> <p><i>Answer:</i></p> <p><i>Yes, the Treasurer had contacted the council regarding this and the request was refused because it would set a precedent. In addition, the council had been asked to make some adjustment to the booking fee for the night of the Christmas party in light of the fact that the party was, in effect, cut short because of the gate being closed at 10.00pm. Again, the request was refused.</i></p> <p>The members were asked to accept these 3 reports. Proposed by: Mr. Ostler      Seconded by: Pat Roome</p>
6.	<p><b>Election of committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Len Clark / Chris Dresler</b></p>
	<p>All 11 members of the current committee were happy to stand again in their current roles: Len Clark, Chris Dresler, Jane Heritage, Marilyn Grant, Sandra Hooper, Sheila Davenport, Ruth Page, Carol McGowan, Derek Dolling, David Dunford, Gill Clark This was agreed by a majority vote. Chris Dresler informed the members that she had found someone to shadow her in her role as secretary, with a view to taking over the role in the next 2-3 years. She therefore nominated Julie Sheppard to join the committee. Proposed by: Hilary Corio      Seconded by: Claire Shenton-Taylor This was agreed by a majority vote.</p>
7.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Len Clark</b></p>
	<p>a) Len Clark thanked everyone who turned up early to help with setting up the room.</p>

	<p>b) There was a proposal from a member to start all meetings in the future at 7.15 pm. This would give more time at the end of the evening for packing away before the 10.00 pm deadline for the closure of the gate. This was agreed by a majority vote.</p> <p>c) Hilary Corio spoke on behalf of all the members to thank the committee for all their hard work during the past year – they had done a super job in what were, on occasion, difficult circumstances.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Presentations</b>	<b>Len Clark</b>
	<p>The help of certain members over the past year was acknowledged with a small gift.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pat and Gill for their hard work on creating and maintaining the flower border outside the Memorial hall</li> <li>• Steve Roome for his continued work on the newsletter distribution, emails, show schedule and auditing the accounts</li> <li>• David Hunt for keeping the website up to date.</li> </ul>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Close of meeting</b>	
	The meeting closed at 8.15 pm	

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