

Minutes of Charlbury Garden Society Committee Meeting

Tuesday 17th May, 7.30pm

Venue: Corner House

Present:	Geoff Holmberg, Geneviève Hug, Zoe Burton, Susan Dunstall, John Moore, Alison Derham, Catrin Weston
Apologies:	Di Gold, Hugh Belshaw, Stephen Nelson, Catherine Goyder, Harriet Lawson
Host:	Geoff Holmberg
Minutes:	Alison Derham

1. Minutes from last meeting on 29th March

Agreed.

Action: Gen to post minutes on website

2. Brief reports

2.1 Spring Show (Geoff)

This was very successful and enjoyed by all. It had a relaxed feel and many first-time competitors felt happy to exhibit. After the Show we are showing a surplus of £158.27. Doesn't include the Hall booking though. We did well because of the raffle. There was some confusion over hall booking for which Alison apologised.

2.2 Treasury (Catrin)

At the monthly reconciliation we are running a surplus of £780.00. This will reduce after the Annual Show and doesn't include the promises of donations that were agreed at the AGM. We have simplified the accounts to run a receipts and payments account which is easier to manage.

Dealing with cash is becoming more difficult as the Post Office don't do bags of cash anymore.

2.3 Membership (Gen)

Membership is strong with over 260 members, which is more than before the pandemic. Gen needed to re-print Membership cards.

2.4 Gardening and growing (Susan)

We felt we would like to re-name this as 'Projects' going forward. The plan is that the far side of the station will be tackled in the Autumn. Catrin will investigate planting a tree for John the Station Master who has passed away

2.5 Junior gardening and growing (Alison)

Nothing to report. Gill Begnor is happy for the sunflower growing for Ukraine to be included in the two classes we have in the Autumn Show. She has offered to donate 2 Amazon vouchers for the prizes.

3. Events

3.1 Plant Sale – 21st May 2022 (Geoff)

Agreed that **John, Catrin, Susan, Zoe, Alison and Gen** will be at Mem Hall to set up tables at 7.30 am on Saturday.

Nicola M and Nick J have offered to help and **Catherine, Hugh, Di** will come for the sale but will have to leave by 11. **Alison** will rally members of her family to help.

Ruth will arrive by 8am with plants and we will have tables labelled by then. We need to decide very quickly what prices we are selling at.

Sales: will be mostly cash hopefully. **Alison** will bring orange cards for card sales to be written on and **Gen** and a helper will total these up at the card machine. **Gen** will bring pens and plant holders. Committee to bring carrier bags if possible.

Geoff has emailed plan of Hall and blank spreadsheet.

Geoff will drop some cardboard to Alison for signs and prices. Be prepared to reduce prices, as it is important we don't have plants left if possible. There are suggested prices and we have over an hour to decide prices. Volunteers can buy a few plants ahead of the show, as they will miss the chance to buy otherwise.

John will sit outside to encourage people in.

3.2 Open Gardens – 19 June 2022, 2pm to 6pm (Catherine)

Catherine has organised 12 gardens, see entry on the Open Gardens National Directory:

https://www.opengardens.co.uk/open_gardens.php?id=2266

This is all in hand and meetings are taking place to finalise this. Zoe has worked incredibly hard on the literature for this, which looks amazing and we would like to record our thanks for this. Gen will use the same printers who print our membership cards. Costs will be approximately £70.00.

Piles of advertising flyers will need to be distributed at all festival events during preceding week.

3.3 Glyme Valley SSSI walk with Craig Blackwell – Saturday 2nd July, 2pm (Catherine)

Craig Blackwell's walk is in hand for Saturday 2nd July at 2pm. Catherine is chasing him for approximate numbers but we assume around 20. We will open up to just GS members and then wider if we need to. This is a circular walk. He does not want payment and so we need to take a gift. **Action: Need to agree date for advertising this**

3.4 Gray House Kitchen Garden (Gen)

Possible dates are Thursday June 9, 23rd, or July 7th. It could be afternoon or again early evening. **Gen is trying to pin Emma down on this. We will need to advertise this.**

3.5 Self drives

Rousham and Broughton Grange - no further details on this at present but suggested that we visit Rousham in September.

Also, Susan received this from Sue Cox: "I noticed that the Lawrence Trust has two gardens in South Newington that can be open to group visits more or less anytime and wondered if Garden Soc might arrange an outing? I guess I could if publicity through Club?"

See <https://www.khh.org.uk/event/south-newington-open-gardens>

Alison will reply to Sue Cox about the South Newington gardens and maybe visit later in the Summer

3.6 Coach trip idea (Geoff)

Sarah Potter will arrange a trip for 2023 but not this year.

3.7 Remaining events for 2022 (Catherine)

In hand

3.8 Events for 2023 (Catherine)

So far January confirmed with a talk by Maggie Tran from Bramdean Garden. Agreed that we will do a mixture of Zoom talks and face to face. We will look at other societies to see what they are doing and rest of committee asked to think about speakers. Especially keen on practical matters. Vegetable growing, winter colour, water features and summer containers all discussed. **All Committee Members to see if anyone in their network would be interested in giving a talk on a practical subject.**

4. Other matters

4.1 Projector

Will continue to research prices to buy our own projector and screen. **Zoe**

4.2 Advice for Members

Agreed we wouldn't give advice about manure and compost in case quality isn't very good.

4.3 Support for Susan in preparing the quarterly newsletter

Try to send articles to Susan otherwise it is a huge amount of work. Peter Bridgman wrote an article about seed sowing which we could re-use as it was published a long time ago, although it is on our website, so maybe not. Possibly need to look at the format. We will continue to write an article for The Chronicle. The committee is very happy to help out with articles.

4.4 Civic Church Service – 5th June (Alison)

We have been invited to attend the Civic service at St Mary's on June 5th dressed in appropriate GS costumes. Members of the committee may attend. **Alison will reply to Sally saying that members would try to attend but probably won't be dressing up.**

4.5 Charlbury Street Fair Stall (Alison)

We agreed that we wouldn't have a table at the Street Fair this year. **Alison will email Liz Partington to say that we won't be participation this year.**

AOB

Allotment judging – ask Nicola Morgan if she will do it again. (This has been done and she is happy to do so.)

4.6 Date of next meeting – Tuesday September 6th