

Minutes of Charlbury Garden Society Committee Meeting

Tuesday 4th October, 7.30pm

Venue: Corner House

Present:	Geoff Holmberg, Alison Derham, Catherine Goyder, John Moore, Catrin Weston
Apologies:	Susan Dunstall, Mathew Franklin-Maiden, Stephen Nelson, Di Gold, Hugh Belshaw, Genevieve Hug, Zoe Burton
Host:	Geoff Holmberg
Minutes:	Alison Derham

1. Agree minutes from last meeting on 6th September

Minutes were agreed. Action: Gen to post minutes on website

Matters arising from last minutes – Geoff will wait a while before letting the nursery who supply the plants for the Plant Sale know, just in case we change our mind.

2. Reports

2.1 Brief review of recent events

2.1.1 Annual Show (Geoff)

Decided that a decision on this would be made after the next annual show. All felt it would be a shame to end this tradition as a lovely afternoon was had by all. Agreed not to charge an entrance fee in the future.

2.2 Treasury (Catrin)

Catrin and Geoff are working on accounts/spreadsheets for the AGM. Agreed that as the Primary School had received £100, they would not have £60 in addition.

Donations have had to be made by cheques so some will appear as unrepresented in the accounts. All donations have been made apart from Susan's station garden. We will make a small surplus this year. We need to go into AGM with proposed donations. Catrin will write the report before the AGM.

Lots of small coins in the cash box – agreed not to use 10p or 5p amounts in the future. Nothing less than 50p. John would be happy to buy off any surplus small change.

2.3 Membership (Gen)

Nothing special to report.

2.4 Projects (Susan)

Susan will need help with planting at the Station Garden when this is decided.

Catrin is still waiting for a response from the area manager of GWR about a memorial tree for John the Station Master.

2.5 Junior gardening and growing (Alison)

Peter Smith has installed an outside tap at the school at cost and Geoff has spoken to the Head about installing a water butt. The Head will get back to Geoff about this. Peter Smith has cleared the pond but it should have a grid over it – decisions are on-going about this. Some vegetables and herbs have been grown and we are pleased that we can offer practical help. The idea being that if we can get this project off the ground then parents/staff can take over. Excellent that we can support out young growers of the future in this way.

3. Remaining events for 2022

3.1 Plant Swap – 8th October (Alison)

Agreed that we would meet at **9.00** to set up Hall. We have purchased cafetieres to make better coffee and will be serving homemade cakes. John has lots of plants so will need 2 tables. Stephen will help; Catrin is away. John and Stephen will be there as will Zoe! Rupert and Alice will start with teas and coffees. We just need float for teas and coffees. **Catrin will bring boxes for money and the float.**

John will bring cereal packets and marker. (Alison has now found some from the last event so not needed). Alison will bring white plant labels and seeds. Alison will go through them and throw out old seeds. Gen can hopefully drop off membership forms.

3.2 AGM + talk on preparing the garden for winter by Timothy Walker – 20th October

AGM – committee members will need to be re-elected and Mathew proposed. Papers for the meeting will be published on our website for people to print if they would like to. We will need to tell our members this via a mini newsletter.

Timothy is coming by train and one of us will collect him from the station. We would advise he arrives in good time. Train leaves Oxford at 6pm which would be the best one to get. We think he will need a table as he is bringing his laptop. Confirmed start time of 7pm. Zoe will work on posters. We will serve wine and nibbles – **Alison will buy wine and bags of nibbles to be more Covid friendly.** We will arrange them in a nice basket and ask people to help themselves. Catering for 50.

6 bottles of red, 6 bottles of white and sparkling water.

Catherine has text for speakers which needs to be passed on to Zoe if not already done.

Catherine will double check whether he needs a projector and screen. If he does then Alison will ask Paddy for help again! We agreed that we would take a lap top this Saturday to see if we can set it up. Hoping Zoe will be able to bring hers.

3.3 Zoom talk on garden bugs by Dr Ian Bedford – 17th November (Catherine)

Action: Zoe to create poster and circulate newsletter late October/early November. Alison will purchase Zoom account. Alison will ask Zoe to come and literally screen share for the first event to help with the technical side!

3.4 Christmas wreath-making event – 8th December (Alison)

Mathew has agreed to do this and supply all equipment including foliage. People will be encouraged to bring anything they would like to add to their own wreaths. Suggest fee of £200 for this. We will open to members first and then open further to general public. We can have about 25 people comfortably. Suggest charge of £30.00. This is still very reasonable. We will provide mulled wine and

mince pies. Hoping that Gen can organise this.

Action: Zoe to create poster and circulate newsletter late October/early November

4. Events for 2023 (Catherine)

4.1 Talks

Catherine has sourced some interesting speakers for next year. One dahlia speaker and one who spoke at great Rollright. We will try to keep them face to face where possible but have the November one by Zoom.

4.2 Self-drives

Rousham went well, although the gardeners were very keen that we had paid!

4.3 Dates

January 19th – Maggie Trans (has now confirmed)

February 16th – potentially Gardeners' Question Time

March 16th – Catherine to source

April 1st – Combined Art Society and Garden Society Spring Show (Hall already booked)

September – Annual Show – we would need more helpers for next year.

October – AGM and Harvest supper

November – Zoom talk

On the membership cards we will just print the dates and no details.

5. Other matters

5.1 Discussion of Rose and Sweet Pea Show

Decide on whether to proceed with an additional summer show, dependent on the success of the Annual Show and will discuss this for the future.

5.2 Zoom account

See 3.3 above

5.3 CGS website hosting

News from Helen Chapman: The company I work for, Torchbox, is offering free hosting for us on the next tier up, at no cost to the Garden Society. I just need to figure out how to migrate it over for you, and I'm hoping to get some advice on that soon. But I should be able to handle this for you.

Action: We will wait to hear from Helen. We are extremely grateful for her help and will ensure that we take her a nice plant to say thank you.

5.4 Proposed new committee member

Last but not least: Matthew Maiden, who has been incredibly helpful at our recent Annual Show, has been asked to join the committee and has accepted.

AOB

Christmas Social and Quiz – decided that we wouldn't do a social this year but Catherine suggested that next year we do a proper Harvest Supper with AGM and get catering and music and charge people.

Projector – decision that we would not go ahead with purchase of this

Edward Aitken – Head Gardener of Cornbury – since the meeting has been in touch regarding plant swap. Has said he would be happy to give a talk. Alison has put him in touch with Catherine for further discussion.

Christmas tree Festival – we didn't discuss at the meeting as ran out of time but emails since suggest we do this again. **Action: Susan Dunstall** will send booking form

5.4 Date of next meeting **TBD but likely before the Spring Show**

Items to discuss at next meeting:

Possible growing activity with school aged children – bulbs or seeds. Families to be charged a nominal fee?