

**Minutes of the Blofield and District Gardening Club 2014 Annual General Meeting
held in the Margaret Harker Hall on Wednesday, 12th March, 2014, from 7.30 p.m.**

1) **President's welcome:** Pat Thomas welcomed members of the Club to the AGM, pleased to see so many attendees and encouraging all to review The Gardener's Prayer, a copy of which she had brought along with her.

2) **Apologies for absence:** it was agreed that apologies for absence would no longer be recorded at the AGM.

3) **Minutes of the last meeting – 13th March, 2013 – had been made available to all.** These were reviewed and with no-one suggesting any changes, proposed by Gillian Stansfield and seconded by Angela Bishop, then signed by the Chairman as an accurate account of the 2013 meeting.

4) **Matters arising:** there were no matters arising from the Minutes.

5) Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer, June Drake, had circulated a copy of the Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 2013, which confirmed a slight deficit for the year but overall a healthy bank balance. Mrs Drake explained the reasons for the deficit including an increase in some expenses and early payment of the Thompson and Morgan account, but confirmed that the number of members had increased in year and the summer show had been well supported. No queries were raised by members about the accounts.

The Treasurer proposed that in view of the healthy state of the finances, membership subscription should remain at £5.00 for the year, with visitors paying £2.00 per meeting. The original copy of the Club's accounts that had been signed by Douglas Clark, the Examiner, was available for inspection.

The adoption of the Accounts and report was proposed by Sylvia Nelthorpe and seconded by Celia Green and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

Members' subscriptions for the 2014 year fall due in April and all wishing to join were asked to put £5 in an envelope marked with their name, address and telephone number and bring to the April meeting.

6) Chairman's report

The Chairman, Peter Mackness, was pleased to report another successful year with good membership numbers, well attended meetings and a healthy set of accounts. He felt that despite the difficult weather in the months leading up to the summer show it had proved an excellent occasion and thanked all involved in its organisation. Speakers at meetings had proved interesting, including "the chickens!", and the Seed Order Scheme had again ensured good value for money for members. Peter felt that the Christmas Lunch at The Feathers in Holt had been enjoyed by all who had attended, and plans for the 2014 year, including the summer show, forthcoming speakers and the Christmas lunch would be presented later during the meeting.

Peter thanked the committee and all others who worked so hard to help run the Club so successfully, though was sorry to report that Mike Manley and Janet Muter had decided to stand down from the Committee, but pleased to report that Janet would continue to organise refreshments at meetings. Peter concluded by encouraging members to consider joining the committee then thanked Pat Thomas for her continuing support and she was presented with a token of the Club's gratitude and esteem.

7) Election of officers and committee

The President informed the meeting that some changes to the Committee were being proposed, confirming that Janet Muter and Mike Manley had decided to retire from the Committee. They were warmly thanked for their contribution to the Club over recent years and presented with a token of the Club's appreciation. The remaining members of the Committee had confirmed their willingness to stand and are:

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| Chairman | Peter Mackness | Treasurer | June Drake |
| Show Secretary | Sylvia Nelthorpe | Deputy treasurer and deputy show secretary | Gillian Stansfield |
| Registration secretary | Valerie Mackness | Secretary and programme secretary | Susan Rowe |

The President thanked all the Committee members for their hard work during 2013, especially Peter Mackness for his excellent and invaluable work as chairman, Treasurer June Drake for the very efficient way she managed the Club's finances and provided excellent financial reports, Sylvia Nelthorpe for the impeccable organisation of the Summer Show, and Gillian Stansfield acting as assistant Treasurer and Summer Show support.

Club members were encouraged to consider becoming committee members, as the duties are not onerous - there are only three meetings each year, and support would be given to anyone interested, especially with regard to becoming the outings organiser. The President also thanked members who worked with such dedication organising the monthly raffle, plant stalls, refreshments and other benefits for club members.

8) Summer Show Schedule – Saturday, 12th July, 2014

Show secretary Sylvia Nelthorpe thanked all who had entered the Show last year and for the support offered by many, especially Gillian Stansfield. The majority of the Schedule will remain the same as last year, though some changes had been proposed by the committee, which were outlined. All details will appear in the Show Schedule which will be available to members shortly. The meeting was asked to agree the amended Schedule for the 2014 Summer Show and it was proposed by Gillian Stansfield and seconded by Colin Green.

Members were also asked to suggest changes to the schedule for the future, perhaps a class they had noticed at other Horticultural Shows which they felt would work well here.

9) Club Programme 2014

The Programme Secretary, Susan Rowe, outlined the 2014 programme, also confirming the titles of the competitions to be held for members at each meeting. The proposed programme will be confirmed in the 2014 membership card which will be available at the April meeting.

10) Outings 2014

The chairman confirmed that the committee had discussed the viability of arranging summer outings and had ultimately concluded that it was not appropriate to try to organise these this year. However copies of outings being offered by local coach firms had been obtained, and would be made available on the notice board in the Hall, for members' information.

The committee had however proposed that a Christmas lunch should be arranged, proposed as Saturday, 6th December, 2014, at the Filby Bridge Restaurant. A list will be circulated to members in due course. It is envisaged that members will arrange their own travel to Filby.

11) Seed Order Scheme

Sylvia Nelthorpe confirmed that the scheme continued to be well supported. The Thompson and Morgan catalogue is current until August, and orders could still be made with generous discounts available. It appeared that there had been a delay in members receiving seed potatoes and onion sets and Sylvia is chasing this with T&M. Sylvia proposed that if any members felt that other suppliers should be approached, she would be happy to hear from them.

The chairman thanked Sylvia for all the time and effort she committed to this scheme which was reinforced by the members.

12) Any other business

Peter Mackness apologised to members that the main door to the Hall had not been open for them but it appeared that there had been a problem with the door lock.

13) Date of next meeting:

**The next Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, 11th March, 2015,
from 7.30 p.m. at The Margaret Harker Hall**

The President thanked the committee for arranging light refreshments for all and closed the meeting at 8.00 p.m.