

DRAFT Minutes of the Blofield and District Gardening Club
2017 Annual General Meeting
held in the Margaret Harker Hall on Wednesday, 8th March, 2017, from 7.30 p.m.

1) Welcome: Sylvia Nelthorpe, Chair of the Club welcomed members to the AGM, pleased to see so many people attending on this, the 45th year of the Club's existence. Sylvia read from the original 1972 constitution, pleased to confirm that the original aims of the group still held true.

2) Minutes of the last meeting – 9th March, 2016 – had been made available to all. These were reviewed and with no-one suggesting any changes, proposed by Chloe Veale and seconded by Christine Goodwin as an accurate account of the 2016 meeting.

3) Matters arising: Section 12: any other business: c) Date of summer show: a proposal that the date of the summer show should be delayed by a few weeks had been raised at the last AGM. As agreed, the committee had discussed this proposal, but after further consideration, felt that the usual mid-July date should continue, as the majority of club members had been able to produce a good selection of fruits, vegetables and flowers for the show over many years.

4) Treasurer's Report: the Treasurer, June Drake, had circulated a copy of the Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 2016. She confirmed that there had been a deficit of £209.13, largely accounted for by the purchase of a new projector screen and donations in memory of some club members who had sadly passed away during the year. The club had applied to a local charitable fund to purchase the screen, but unfortunately had not been successful.

The treasurer confirmed that affiliation fees had been paid to the Royal Horticultural Society and would be paid to the Norfolk & Norwich Horticultural Society at the due date. Affiliation allows Club members to participate in the various shows organised by this Society and it may be suggested that entries will be encouraged this year.

The Annual Accounts had been examined and agreed by Mr Douglas Clark, for which the Club was most grateful.

There had been 78 members of the Club during the year and a 3% increase in the cost of hiring the Margaret Harker Hall. Speakers' fees seemed to have levelled out during the year and there are no extraordinary expenses anticipated for the coming year. Therefore, in spite of the deficit, the Treasurer proposed that annual membership subscriptions should remain at £7.00 with visitors being charged £2.00 per meeting.

No queries were raised about the Annual Statement of Accounts, so their adoption was proposed by Peter Mackness, seconded by Maureen Willsher and agreed by the meeting.

5) Chairman's report: Sylvia Nelthorpe thanked all the members and committee for giving the club such a successful year, and especially thanked Peter Mackness the previous chairman for his support, Marion Barnett for organising the refreshments during the year, Christine Goodwin for organising the raffle, Alan Drake for taking over membership registration at meetings, and husband Mike for undertaking chair moving duties and other heavy lifting jobs and managing the monthly competition table.

Sylvia reflected on the sad losses during the year, of Colin Green, a former Chair and long standing member of the Club, of John Whittaker, a great gardener and stalwart of the show and that Gillian Stansfield had had to move back to Scotland and will be greatly missed for her strong support and organisational abilities. However Sylvia was encouraged to see so many club members attending the meeting and encouraged all to embrace what the club stands for and look optimistically to the future.

6) Election of officers and committee: : it was confirmed that Sylvia Nelthorpe was amenable to continuing to act as chairperson for 2017, if that was the wish of the meeting. Her nomination was proposed by Chloe Veale and seconded by Peter Mackness. Sylvia resumed chairing the meeting but confirmed that although she was willing to continue for the current year, she wished for someone else to take this office in 2018, to ensure there were sufficient people on the committee to organise its progress satisfactorily.

Sylvia confirmed that Susan Rowe was content to continue as secretary and programme secretary in 2017. This nomination was proposed by June Drake and seconded by Catherine Howe. Similarly June Drake was happy to continue as Treasurer, which was proposed by Maureen Willsher and seconded by Margaret Bailey. Current committee members Sue Brown and Chloe Veale had also offered to continue and their nominations were proposed by Jan Roberts and seconded by Catherine Howe. Two club members had offered to sit on the committee and Margaret Bailey and Maureen Willsher's nominations were proposed by Susan Rowe and Jan Roberts and seconded by June Drake and Catherine Howe respectively. All these proposals were unanimously agreed by the meeting.

Therefore for 2017 the committee is:

Chairman	Sylvia Nelthorpe	Treasurer	June Drake		
Show Secretary	Sylvia Nelthorpe	Deputy treasurer/deputy show secretary			
Secretary	Susan Rowe	Programme secretary	Susan Rowe		
Committee members	Susan Brown	Chloe Veale	Margaret Bailey	Maureen Willsher	

7) Summer Show Schedule – Saturday, 15th July, 2017: Sylvia Nelthorpe thanked all who had entered the Show last year. She also confirmed that she was proposing that the majority of the Schedule for the 2017 show remain the same as last year, though some changes had been proposed by the committee. The meeting agreed the amended Schedule for the 2017 Summer Show unanimously. Sylvia also confirmed that a new award had been agreed – the John Whittaker Memorial Salver, which will replace a rosette formally awarded by the judge for the best exhibit in the cut flower and shrub classes.

8) Club Programme 2017: Susan Rowe outlined the proposed 2017 programme, also confirming the titles of the competitions to be held at each meeting, which was agreed by the members. Members were urged to suggest other topics or speakers for future meetings, to ensure interest and variety.

9) Seed Order Scheme: Sylvia Nelthorpe confirmed that the scheme supplier would remain as Mr Fothergill's Seeds for the year. Members' orders had been processed very efficiently and 50% discount received on seeds. Sixteen members had taken advantage of the scheme and generous discounts had been earned. The current catalogues are still valid; new ones will be published in September.

10) Any other business

a) The Club's 45th Sapphire Anniversary: Sylvia asked for members' suggestions to celebrate this important anniversary.

b) Competition to propose a logo for the club: it had been suggested at a committee meeting that the club should have its own logo and Sylvia would like members to suggest options for this. More details will be announced at future meetings.

c) 10% stall: Sylvia confirmed that a table is available at each meeting where members can bring along surplus plants to sell for their own profit. However 10% of the takings (or more!) should be given to Club funds for the privilege. Unsold items should be removed by the growers at the end of the meeting.

d) Club notices: all were encouraged to read the notices pinned on to the Club's section of the notice-board in the meeting hall, as they are of particular interest and importance to members.

e) Fire Training at the Margaret Harker Hall: club representatives were encouraged to attend the formal fire training, to be held on 29th March (7.00 p.m.) at the Margaret Harker Hall.

f) Collection of subscriptions for 2017: June requested members put their subscription for 2017 (£7) in an envelope for the April meeting, noting their name, address and telephone number. These details are kept in confidence.

11) Date of next meeting: **The next Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, 14th March, 2018, from 7.30 p.m. at The Margaret Harker Hall**

Sylvia thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and invited all to stay for light refreshments and a quiz. The formal meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

Later Marion Fell was congratulated and thanked for organising such a fun quiz.