



**Blofield & District Gardening Club**  
**Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**held in the Margaret Harker Hall, Yarmouth Road, Blofield**  
**on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2026, from 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:** all members of the Committee except Adrian Conneely, who had sent his apologies for absence, and 26 members of the public including 4 guests.

**1 Welcome to the meeting by our President, Mrs Sylvia Nelthorpe.** Mrs Nelthorpe was very pleased to see so many people attending the meeting, which she promised would be a brief business meeting, followed by a buffet and quiz. The quiz had been compiled by David Reynolds, for which all are most grateful. A new innovation was a “seed swap” table together with the raffle and the £1 bring and buy table.

**2 Draft Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2025:** these were reviewed by all present and proposed as accurate by Mrs L Hunt, seconded by Mrs J Wicks and unanimously approved by the meeting.

**3 Matters arising therefrom:** no issues were raised from the previous minutes.

**4 Treasurer’s Report:** Mr Alan Drake confirmed that he would be retiring from this position, and thanked all who had supported him and the Club during the last year. Financially the Club was sound, and a summary of the income and expenditure for the year had been circulated at the meeting. More detailed information is available if anyone would like to enquire further. The accounts had been examined by long-standing member Peter Mackness who had signed them as a true reflection of the financial situation.

Income is from a variety of initiatives and thanks were given to Mrs C Goodwin and Mrs J Wicks for managing the raffle and £1 stall, and to all who had supported the Plant Sale in May. There were 45 members last year and several guests had also attended some meetings. Mr Drake confirmed that he would continue to offer his tool sharpening service.

Mr Drake anticipated that expenditure would increase in the current year with the hire of the Margaret Harker Hall and other expenses likely to rise by approx. 10%. Speakers’ fees are also likely to be in the region of £100 per meeting, so club members were exhorted to support the various fundraising strategies planned for the year.

Bearing all this in mind, Mr Drake proposed that membership of the Club should remain at a very reasonable £10 for the year, with guests being charged £2:50 per meeting. Acceptance of the Club’s accounts was proposed by Mrs C Veale and seconded by Mrs S Burton.

**5 Chair’s Report:** Mrs June Drake confirmed that she would be retiring as Chair at this meeting and explained that members of the committee would be chairing Club meetings on a rota basis until a formal appointment was made, though she would offer her support at all times. She felt the Club had enjoyed a successful year and had been relieved that uncertainties over the future of the Margaret Harker Hall had been resolved. Meetings had been well attended as had fundraising events. She particularly thanked Mrs Sarah Reynolds for compiling a very interesting series of talks with good speakers, plus visits to two local gardens which had been much appreciated by all who had attended.

The Plant Sale at Blofield and the Summer Show had also been well supported and appreciation was given especially to Mrs S Nelthorpe, and to all the committee over the years for their support for her, initially as Treasurer and more latterly as Chair.

**6 Election of officers and committee:** Mrs Nelthorpe confirmed that sadly both Mr and Mrs Drake had decided to retire from their posts as Chair and Treasurer of the Club. However, the remaining members of the committee had agreed to continue for a further year, with three new Club members offering to join the committee - Mr and Mrs Burton and Mr A Conneely, who has agreed to act as Treasurer following Mr Drake's retirement.

The meeting was therefore asked to approve the following officers and committee members:

<b>Office</b>	<b>Name proposed</b>
<b>Chair</b>	<i>Vacant at present</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mr Adrian Conneely
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	-
<b>Secretary</b>	Mrs Susan Rowe
<b>Programme Secretary</b>	Mrs Sarah Reynolds
<b>Show Secretary</b>	Mrs Sylvia Nelthorpe
<b>RHS/NNHS Link member and Assistant Show Secretary</b>	Mrs Sue Brown
<b>Seed Order Scheme and raffle organiser</b>	Mrs Christine Goodwin
<b>Refreshment organisers</b>	Mrs Sarah Reynolds and Mrs Maureen Willsher
<b>£1 bring and buy table</b>	Mrs Joanna Wicks
<b>Committee members</b>	Mrs Lynda Hunt, Mrs Sue Burton, Mr John Burton

Mrs Nelthorpe also wished to thank people who supported the Club outside of the committee, e.g. Mrs C Veale who compiled the very attractive publicity poster. All such support is much appreciated.

The meeting was invited to approve the proposed committee, which was proposed by Ms B Basey-Fisher, seconded by Mrs J Wicks, and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

**7 Summer Show Schedule for Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2026:** Mrs Nelthorpe outlined the changes to the Summer Show Schedule for this year. She confirmed that a new trophy has been donated to the Club, the Drake Award, which replaces the rosette "awarded by the judge for the best exhibit in the Fruit Classes". This has been donated by Mr and Mrs Drake to mark their retirement from their posts as chair and treasurer, and all are most grateful to them for this.

**8 Club Programme for 2026 including competition titles:** Mrs Sarah Reynolds outlined the speakers, titles and competitions arranged for the current year. She also proposed visits to two Norfolk gardens, Houghton Hall to see the tulip displays, and to the Old Manor Farm House at Swanton Abbott. Expressions of interest were requested and full details will be circulated in due course.

The meeting was reminded that membership subscriptions are due in April, and the form confirming contact details and agreement to receive email messages (*to comply with GDPR rules*) is already available.

**9 Seed Order Scheme:** Mrs C Goodwin apologised that seed orders had been late arriving. However the catalogues are still current and members can order seeds and plants, and receive the appropriate discount. New catalogues should arrive in August and will be distributed from September.

## **10 Any other business**

- i) **Plant Sale at Blofield Church on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May between 10 am – 12 noon.** Please prepare plants to offer for sale and come along and support the event.
- ii) **Seed Swap:** members were encouraged to bring along spare packets of seeds or those they have collected, to offer to other members.
- iii) **Visitors to this meeting were warmly welcomed** and encouraged to consider joining the Club.

**11 Formal thanks and presentation to the retiring Chair and Treasurer:** Mrs Nelthorpe sincerely thanked Mrs June Drake, who had joined the Club in 2011, acting as Treasurer for some years, then joint Treasurer with Mr Drake, before accepting the role of Chair. Mr Drake was thanked for all his hard work at Treasurer. They were presented with flowers, a garden centre voucher and an Afternoon Tea for Two voucher. These were accepted with gratitude.

## **12 Date of next Annual General Meeting – Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2027**

*The business of the meeting finished at 8:00 p.m.  
Attendees were invited to stay for the general knowledge quiz  
and enjoy the light buffet and hot drinks offered by the committee.*