**WYCHE and COLWALL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

**MINUTES of the AGM, MONDAY, December 2nd, 2019**

**1. Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

These had been received from Paul Picton, David and Diane Hodgson and Graham

White.

**3. Minutes of the 2018 AGM**

These were accepted as correct. The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Ross Barbour and seconded by Mary Roberts and carried unanimously.

**4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Chairman’s Report**

2019 had been another successful year for the society with some very good speakers. His favourites had been Joseph Atkin, Jeff Soulsby, Jack Wilgoss, Harry Green and Carol Klein.The latter speaker and James Alexander Sinclair, next year’s PPML speaker, had both recently won British Media awards. The Grand Day out to High Glanau and Llanover House had been most enjoyable, as was the evening garden visit to Little Malvern Court. The running of the plant crèche at the Spring Show had brought in the best donations yet and the Summer Show had gone well.

Next year’s Programme looks equally exciting and will be revealed in due course.

As is the custom, he would be standing down as Chairman after his three years. He had enjoyed his time and had had lots of help from the Committee members present and some who had retired in the course of his chairmanship. It was business- like and ran smoothly. Helen Picton had passed on a healthy, well run society for which he was grateful. Especial thanks were due to the ladies who run the raffle and the teas, not forgetting Megan Taylor who had served on the Committee for 15 years and given unstinting service in that time in various capacities, but who felt it was now time to stand down.

**6. Treasurer’s Report**

Membership had risen to 196 paid up members. The PPML attracted a good audience and 211 tickets were sold so that the Elms’ hall was filled to capacity and the raffle was a record.

Monthly raffle takings were up, probably because it had been decided to improve the quality of the prizes. Mary Roberts and Leslie Tanner were thanked for their dedication in running the raffle and Gillian Lowder and Lynne Mitchell for obtaining the prizes.

The plant stall was again a huge success and Kay and Heather deserved a great deal of thanks for all they do.

As a result of the extra money generated by the Plant sales and donations at the Spring Garden Festival, our checque to the PPMF would be £4600 this year.

Expenditure on speakers was a little down on last year but was not a deliberate policy.

Other costs had stayed much the same leaving us with a surplus of £957.59p.

We finish the year on a positive and successful note.

Thanks to David Taft for auditing the accounts and his guidance.

**7. Election of officers**

The following were elected unanimously.

**Chairman: Liz Thomas** Prop. Margaret White Sec. Veronica Benjamin

**Treasurer: Brian Taylor** Prop. Sharon Maiden Sec. Sue Nicholls

**Secretary:**  **Joan Wright** Prop. Mary Roberts Sec. Jutta Chisnall

**8. Election of Committee Members for 2020**

Two new members were elected unanimously:

**Ross Barbour** Prop. Liz Thomas Sec. David Yates

**Steve Shaw** Prop. Megan Taylor Sec. Margaret White

As one of the longest serving committee members, Lynne Mitchell had temporarily stood down but was happy to stand again. She was proposed by Geraldine Yates and seconded by Gillian Lowder.

The remainder of the committee were re-elected en bloc, proposed by Megan Taylor and seconded by Margaret White.

**9. Election of the Auditor**

David Taft was happy to continue. He was proposed by Helen Picton and seconded by Sue Nicholls.

**10. PPMF( Percy Picton Memorial Fund)**

In the absence of Paul Picton, Ross Barbour, one of the trustees, gave a report on the awards given this year by the fund.

There had been a large number of applicants and eleven had been awarded a total of £9465, some for books, travel, accommodation and fees. The recipients ranged from RHS level 2 and level 4 students, a BSc at Pershore, three doing work experience, including at Great Dixter and Bodnant, RHS diploma at Edinburgh Botanic Gardens, work experience at New Zealand’s Botanic Gardens and a trainee horticultural teacher.

He thanked the membership on behalf of the trustees for making these awards possible

The Treasurer then presented a cheque for £4600 for the PPMF.

On behalf of Paul Picton, Helen Picton also thanked the society for its enthusiasm and support, enabling us to attract the best speakers. The committee members worked hard and were a great support for this charity, the special charity of the WCHS. The Plant Stall had helped the fund enormously too. He also wished to thank Hugh for his chairmanship over the past three years.

**11. A O B**

A member asked if there might be an extra class in the Vegetable entries for vegetables not already included in the Show Schedule. Helen Picton will consider this.

**The 2020 AGM will be on Monday, December 7th, at 7p.m.**