

**PLANT HERITAGE  
SOMERSET GROUP – 17 National Collections  
(Reg Charity Nr: 1059504)**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Edington Village Hall on  
Saturday 6th December 2014 at 12 noon**

**Committee Members Present:**

Mr Alan Shepherd - President  
Mrs Mary Sephton - Chairman  
Mrs Ann Celer - Secretary  
Mrs Penny Berry - Treasurer  
Mrs Pauline Clapp - Programme Secretary  
Mrs Yvonne Radford - Vice Chairman and Plant Exchange Co-ordinator  
Mrs Sheila Chambers - Publicity/Raffle  
Mrs Joan Warren - Plant Fair Organiser  
Mrs Margaret Adams - Minute secretary  
Mr Don Everitt

In total 24 members present.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Ken and Sylvia Armstrong, Jane Hitchelmass and Barbara Barnwell

**2. Minutes of the AGM held on 1st December 2013.**

An abbreviated form of the minutes of the AGM held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013 was read. Copies were available for members to read. Copies of the full minutes were also available and had been available to view on the website. The Chairman Mary Sephton asked members if they were willing to accept the minutes as a true record; acceptance was proposed by Don Everitt, seconded by Ann Celer and all in favour. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**3. Matters Arising: None**

**4. President's welcome**

The president Alan Shepherd welcomed everyone. He said that this would be his last AGM as President. He encouraged everyone to go to the National AGM in April, on at least one of the days, so that they would be able to tell visitors about our Somerset Group.

**5. Chairman's report**

Mary Sephton said that the last 12 months have been very busy for the committee, as they have been madly planning for 2015, not just for the National AGM, but also searching for new venues for Plant Sales.

Our lectures have been varied and interesting, as have the garden visits. The holiday in Norwich was very well organised and some of the members went to the National AGM where Mary gave a short presentation about our plans for April, after the AGM meeting.

£100 has been given to a Cannington College student. The committee has been working hard as usual in their various capacities. Pauline, as well as being Programme secretary, attends National Council meetings on our behalf. Ann, our most efficient Secretary, has carted around her merchandise but wishes to hand it over to someone else. It makes a very small profit and she asked members if they wished to keep it on. She praised all the other committee members individually. Finally she thanked Alan Shepherd for his advice and support as president during his term in the office and welcomed Sheila Chambers as his successor. She wished everyone a Happy Christmas and a healthy and happy new Year.

## **6. Delegate to Council Report**

Pauline Clapp has published her report of the last Council meeting in our Autumn newsletter, so this was taken as read.

Sarah Quarterman, the new Chief Executive, has appointed a publicity/fund raising officer- the costs just to appoint were £4000 and this will add to the current deficit of £27,000 last year. Legacies would be very welcome as HQ is heading for an even larger deficit. We need more members. The Chief Executive had wanted to move the Council meetings around the country which would have entailed greater costs, but the meetings will now continue in London but it has to be a different venue..

## **7. Treasurer's report.**

Penny Berry had distributed copies of the accounts to members. Yvonne Radford proposed the adoption of the account: this was seconded by Joan Warren and carried unanimously by all members present.

## **8. Collection Coordinator's report**

Jenny Baker, who is eventually taking over from Noni Bemrose, reported. She has telephoned some Collection Holders and they have generally had a good year. Jane Alcock at Cannington has submitted her forms for *Santolina*, (she needs 2 more plants), *Deschampsia* and *Monarda*.. Noni is dealing with Lady Skelmersdale's collection of Narcissus..

It is hoped that we will soon have Sue Applegate's collection of irises. Sue together with Pat, is opening a nursery of peonies and irises at Lower Severalls- this is however, no longer a venue for our Spring Plant Sale.

## **9. Election of Officers.**

Mary Sephton was willing to stand again as Chairman, Yvonne Radford as Vice- chairman , Penny Berry as Treasurer and Ann Celer as secretary. Don Everitt proposed their election en bloc, which was seconded by Alan Shepherd with all were in favour..

## **10. Election of Committee.**

Pauline Clapp, Yvonne Radford, Don Everitt, Joan Warren, Barbara Barnwell, Noni Bemrose, Sheila Chambers, Ken Armstrong, and Margaret Adams, of the existing Committee, had agreed to serve. Sue Applegate proposed their re-election en bloc and this was seconded by Sue Boss with all in favour.

## **11. Special Business**

- Mary Sephton presented a gift to outgoing President Alan Shepherd. She introduced Sheila Chambers as the next President.
- There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.35pm.

Signed ..... Date .....