

Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Members of the Society held on Friday 4 June 2010, at 6.30pm in Leadon Pavilion, The Showground, Malvern.

Present: Mr J Hervey-Bathurst President
 Mr D R Halliwell Chairman of Council

Plus members whose names are recorded in the attendance register.

In attendance: Mr N Vincent Chief Executive
 Mrs H Sykes PA to Chief Executive

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs J Bennett, C Doughty, D Hazelwood, G Morgan, D Hall, M Weaver, C Lloyd, Lt Col J Sweetman, Mrs A Carver and Ms S Pickup.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the AGM held on 5 June 2009, having been circulated were confirmed and signed.

3. Vote of Thanks

Mr K R Phillips, County Director for Gloucestershire, thanked the 2009 President, Mr Michael Brinton and his wife, Mrs Angela Brinton. Their commitment to the Society had resulted in a successful and eventful year, they had been both enthusiastic and energetic in their approach to the various shows.

Mr Phillips thanked the 2009 Vice Presidents, Mr David Burlingham, Mr Roger Head and Mr Glyn Morgan and their partners, for their hard work and commitment throughout the year. Mr Phillips hoped they had enjoyed their year and have happy memories.

4. To adopt the Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2009 & reports of the Trustees & Auditors

Mr D Halliwell proposed the adoption of the report and the audited accounts, seconded by Mr J Dent and unanimously agreed.

5. Matters of report from the Board

Mr M Warner informed the meeting that the Board was pleased with the progress made this year and the financial results were very satisfactory. With regard to the 2020 Vision project, the Board has agreed to a capital project to extend and refurbish Severn Hall. This would upgrade the building with the appropriate capital spend whilst maintaining good cash reserves to safeguard the Society against unforeseen circumstances. The investment would provide improved opportunities for commercial rental and better facilities during shows. Thanks must go to the Chief Executive for his hard work over a number of years and for pursuing grant opportunities. It is hoped the project will be finished in time for next year's Three Counties Show.

Mr Vincent reported that turnover had increased by 4% to £4.4m, the surplus had increased from £254k to £285k and cash resource had improved by £269k to £1,844k. It was just as important to note that progress had been made on education and communication and the staff restructure had resulted in the executive being more capable of running the business with a £5m turnover.

The new Showground Member membership was proving popular with 230 members and a small multi disciplinary team is aiming to drive membership forward.

CountryTastic proved to be a huge success with visitor numbers increasing from 3,500 to 4,000. The show provides children with a flavour of agriculture and rural affairs and is a very good lead into the Three Counties Show.

The Malvern Spring Gardening Show had been a very good show, with good media coverage, but reduced visitor numbers due to the very cold weather on the Saturday. This would have an adverse effect of some £60k on the financial results for the year.

Finally, the executive were working closely with AWM in an effort to gain grant funding for the 2020/Severn Hall project.

6. Appointment of Auditors

Mr M Warner proposed the reappointment of Horwath Clark Whitehill as auditors for the coming year, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Society's Board. This was seconded by Mr D Burlingham and unanimously agreed.

7. Elections 2011 – Gloucestershire Year

Mr K R Phillips, County Director for Gloucestershire proposed:

President HRH The Duke of Gloucester

Seconded by Mr M Tufnell and unanimously agreed

Mr K R Phillips, County Director for Gloucestershire proposed:

Vice President, Gloucestershire Mr M Warner

Seconded by Mr M Tufnell and unanimously agreed

Mr P Rose, County Director for Worcestershire proposed:

Vice President, Worcestershire Mrs J Beswick

Seconded by Mrs L Craddock and unanimously agreed

Mr D Owens, County Director for Herefordshire proposed;

Vice President, Herefordshire Mr J Hawkins

Seconded by Mr M Hoskins and unanimously agreed

8. Vote of Thanks

Mr Hervey-Bathurst, President of the Society, expressed thanks to the many people involved in ensuring the success and smooth running of the shows: stewards, officials, vets, the emergency services, doctors and many others who assist the show, many on a voluntary basis. Exhibitors, the media and sponsors should also be thanked for their valuable assistance, together with the permanent and temporary staff, all of whom do a tremendous job. The show would not be a success without the help of so many people.

9. Any Other Business

Mr Halliwell reported that a number of written questions had been received from members and these were noted:

- a) Mr C Doughty queried whether the Farmers Bar was likely to be reinstated at future Three Counties Shows. Mr Vincent responded that current arrangements over welcoming and catering for livestock judges and stewards were working well, but that this could be looked at.
- b) Miss G Bulmer noted that despite being a Life Governor she was not able to attend the first day of the Malvern Spring Gardening Show free of charge; Mr Phillips responded that any member is able to purchase an advance ticket at a discounted rate.

- c) In response to Mrs A Carver's question over the amount of discount available, it was noted that recommendations on pricing and discounts are reviewed each year and this would be looked at again.
- d) A second question from Mrs Carver regarding coverage in the national press was answered by Ms S Gilbert, the Society's Press and PR Manager. It is always a challenge to get coverage in the large national papers who favour the RHS shows, but this is an ongoing objective.
- e) Sir Jerry Wiggin then requested that the benefits for Life Governors should be reviewed, and this was noted.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.58pm.