

Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Members of the Society held on Friday, 3 June 2011, at 6.30pm in Teme Hall, The Showground, Malvern.

Present: 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 HRH The Duke of Gloucester, Lady Elwes, Mrs Andrea Halford, Lt Col James Sweetman, Messrs John Lewis, Glyn Morgan, Michael Weaver and Martin Hoskins.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the AGM held on 4 June 2010, having been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

3. Vote of Thanks

Mr P Rose, County Director for Worcestershire, thanked the 2010 President, Mr James Hervey-Bathurst and his wife, Mrs Lucy Hervey-Bathurst. The President had shown a lot of interest during his visits, and had thoroughly enjoyed showing HRH The Princess Royal around the Malvern Spring Gardening Show.

Mr Rose thanked the 2010 Vice Presidents, Mr Graham Watkins, Mr Mark Tufnell and Mr Rod Brereton and their wives, for their hard work and commitment throughout the year. Mr Rose hoped they had enjoyed their year and have happy memories.

4. To adopt the Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2010 & reports of the Trustees & Auditors

Mr D Halliwell proposed the adoption of the report and audited accounts, seconded by Mr M Blandford and unanimously agreed. It was noted that the Risk and Audit Review Committee had recommended that the remuneration of Crowe Clark Whitehill LLP should be subject to a review by the Board for the coming year.

5. Matters of report from the Board

Mr Nick Vincent gave a review of 2010 which had, with the exception of two days, been characterised by good weather throughout the shows. The Three Counties Show goes from strength to strength and benefitted from the absence of the Royal Show. Planning permission had been received for an extension to Severn Hall and the building work was now progressing.

2011 had begun well with a successful CountryTastic event; visitor numbers had increased and helped achieve the Society's objectives of improving children's knowledge of the rural and agricultural community. The Malvern Spring Gardening Show had been the best to date; the Three Counties Dog Show has received increased entries, and a new project, The Malvern Caravan Show, is being launched in late September.

The Three Counties Show has received record cattle and equestrian entries and will contain a host of new features. The new Severn Hall complex should be open at the end of August and be in use at the Malvern Autumn Show; this has been assisted by RDPE funding through Advantage West Midlands.

The Society has recently been reassessed by Investors in People and will undergo the first ISO 14001 audit since attaining accreditation last year.

Looking to 2012, Mr Vincent forecast a busy year with both the Sheep Event and Beef Expo being hosted at the showground together with the industry conference (ASAO) in November.

6. Appointment of Auditors

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

7. Elections 2012 – Gloucestershire Year

Mr Peter Rose, County Director for Worcestershire proposed:

President The Rt Rev John Inge, Bishop of Worcester

Seconded by Dr D Hall and unanimously agreed

Mr P Rose, County Director for Worcestershire proposed:

Vice President, Worcestershire Mr Francis Harcombe

Seconded by Mr A Parry and unanimously agreed

Mr D Owens, County Director for Herefordshire proposed;

Vice President, Herefordshire Mr Chris Lloyd

Seconded by Mr M Blandford and unanimously agreed

Mr K R Phillips, County Director for Gloucestershire proposed:

Vice President, Gloucestershire Mrs Laura Hamilton

Seconded by Mrs Cate Morris and unanimously agreed

8. Vote of Thanks

Mr Warner, Vice President (Gloucestershire) of the Society, in the absence of the President, reported that the year had been another year with a considerable programme of events in the climate of a major economic downturn. A considerable amount of planning and flair is entailed to ensure the shows have fresh content; progress has also been made in the educational content and this is hoped to be greater in future. Mr Warner expressed thanks to all the staff, both temporary and permanent, judges and stewards who are the unsung heroes of the Society. Acknowledgment and gratitude was also noted for the officials, vets, emergency services, doctors and many others who assist the show, many on a voluntary basis. Exhibitors, the media and sponsors should also be thanked, their support and assistance is greatly valued. The show's success is attributable to the work and help of so many individuals.

Mr Warner gave thanks to the Chief Executive and County Directors, who work tirelessly to maintain the business of the Society, and to uphold the tradition and history; to David Halliwell, the Chairman of Council; and to the fifteen members of Council who retired at the end of the last financial year after giving many years of service to the Society.

9. Any Other Business

Mr Halliwell asked the meeting for any matters, the following were reported:

- a) Mr M Tufnell requested that thanks be expressed to Mr M Warner, Chairman of the Board, for his work and diligence.
- b) At the written request of Lt Col James Sweetman, it was noted that he wished to be associated with the expression of thanks to Mr D Halliwell, Chairman of Council. Mr Halliwell is due to stand down from Council in November 2011, and it was noted that during his time on Council had made an excellent and worthwhile contribution to the running of the Society.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.55pm.