

NORTON AND CHISELBOROUGH FLOWER SHOW

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2010 AT NORTON VILLAGE HALL

Committee:

Manfred Roper	Chairman
Bob Fill	Vice chairman
Lorna Noble	Treasurer
Andy Jacobs	Show organiser
Rowena Aley	Secretary
Jane Shire	Committee member

Attendees:

John Ashton, Chris Brook, Tony Brook, Mary Brown, Chris Cook, Nicky Goad, Mauvyn Greenham, Janet Hutton, Liz Maunder, Stuart Maunder, David Parkinson, Tony Perry, Chris Pratt, Malcolm Reid, Janet Richards, David Robins, Martyn Shire, Peter Thomas.

Apologies:

Sophie and Charles Campbell, Christabel and Mike Cumberlege, Mary Edmond, Liz Fish, Barbara Nicholls, Lynn Orchard.

Minute No. 966 – Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 18 November 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. [Apologies for insufficient copies being available. AGM minutes will be circulated wider and earlier in future.]

Minute No. 967 – Matters Arising

None.

Minute No. 968 – Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented her report which shows that a profit of £1,898.03 was achieved after expenditure of £4,090.81 and receipts of £6,145.96. There is a cash discrepancy of £37.12. While £120 was still owed towards Programme costs, an outstanding payment of £80 received shortly before the AGM now leaves £40 yet to be received for this expense.

- The biggest gross earners are: ticket sales for the Grand Draw of £2,209 (thanks to Tony and Chris Brook et al.); weekend refreshments and catering £989.21 (the Jacobs family et al.); the Patrons fund which stands at £802 (Bob Fill, and the Patrons themselves); the May plant sale earning £604.75 (Sophie and Charles Campbell et al.); gate takings £407 (all gate helpers and the punters themselves).

A copy of the balance sheet is kept on record with the Minutes.

The Treasurer was thanked for her report.

Questions from the floor raised the issue of a) printing and publicity costs: it is hoped these will be more streamlined in future and that a breakdown of specific costs be made, and b) why the balance was lower than might have been anticipated: gate takings were £99 lower than 2009 and the lack of a Saturday evening dance, which raised £1,170.30 net in 2009, meant a reduced income.

Minute No. 969 – Chairman’s Remarks

The Chairman praised all who had contributed to fundraising activities throughout the year and for their help over Flower Show weekend. While everyone who helped were greatly appreciated, special thanks were due to Sophie and Charles Campbell for hosting the very successful Plant Sale in spite of adverse weather; the Jacobs family for providing copious good refreshments and catering which were a big attraction; Tony Brook for putting in the legwork around the villages which raised such significant revenue, and also for his role as Master of Ceremonies. Both Norton and Chiselborough cricket teams were to be congratulated for their entertaining sport, and appreciation was made of the efficient preparation of the pitch.

The new committee was thanked for the work it had achieved throughout the first year of its current membership.

Minute No. 970 – Show Organiser’s Report

The Show Organiser gave his report, the main points of which are as follows in paraphrase:

- Changes to the Schedule had been made to open up the classes as much as possible to encourage participation, and reduce the level at which exhibitors entered the “experts” classes.
- Engagement with Norton School to encourage participation in the Show had been successful. But efforts must be doubled to promote participation in future years: 25% of this year’s entrants mentioned they were first time exhibitors, and, as there was roughly the same number of entrants this year as last, this would indicate that we had lost 25% of exhibitors from last year.
- Allocation of display space and covering of the tables took little more than an hour, given the willing band of helpers who pitched in. This could mean that Friday evening use of the marquee would be possible, should it be deemed appropriate.
- Damage to the marquee roof was repaired temporarily thanks to Matt Orchard and members of the support group.
- Thanks were extended to: the prize card writers Liz Fish, Janet Hutton and the Show secretary; Joyce and Vera Goad who provided sterling support in checking, validating and placing the prize cards; runners Yasmin, Lauren and Danielle; Jane Shire who provided exemplary support to my novice status in these matters. Janet Hutton also helped write the names of the successful winners for the cups and awards.
- A request to ensure that future craft exhibits, which may be large in size, will be placed around the periphery of the tent, and not in the centre, has been noted.
- The highlight of the show was to see Teresa Udall collecting the award on behalf of Norton Primary School, which serves both Norton and Chiselborough, for their fabulous collection of vegetables grown by the children under the guidance of our Chairman Manfred Roper. Congratulations to the school, and many thanks to Manfred.
- Cyclists on a London to Lands End charity bike ride helped valiantly to clear the tables in the marquee in preparation for the Sunday barbecue lunch.

The Show organiser was thanked for his report, a copy of which is kept with the Minutes.

Minute No. 971 – Constitution

The Vice-chairman gave a short introduction to his work in preparing a Constitution for the Flower Show. This Constitution is available on the village website, nortonsubhamdon.org.uk. The proposed wording was projected on a screen and comments were invited from the floor. Various points were raised and discussed, and summarised as follows:

Item 2b – ‘Members’ shall mean members of the Norton and Chiselborough Flower Show Society committee duly elected at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) or otherwise formally co-opted by the Committee to organise the Flower Show, and members of the Support Group: define membership; who exactly is a member – a resident of Norton, Chiselborough, a Patron, a committee member? An attraction of the Support Group might be that it is not a committee and therefore more appealing to partakers (amend constitution to delete mention of Support Group?).

- a committee proposal was made to employ the ‘reference back’ facility so that more lengthy discussion would be postponed until a future committee meeting. Carried.

Item 3 – Aims: The aims and objectives of the Society will be to organise and stage an annual Flower Show; to encourage horticulture, arts and crafts within the Villages; to organise and stage other events and activities to support the above aims and objectives: agreed that the aims of the Flower Show are not to raise money or make a profit as such.

Item 4b – Membership: The Officers of the Committee will be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Show organiser, Patrons administrator, Ordinary members (number of which to be decided at the AGM): clarify that more than one office should not be held by one individual; proposal to list role of Vice-chairman as less important than that of Chairman, Treasurer, Show organiser and Secretary.

- it was proposed that “a member of the committee be appointed to lead the support group”.
- role of President to be optional, not elected, i.e. an honorary post.

Item 5f – Finance: The Committee shall use all reasonable endeavours to maintain funds sufficient to support two further Flower Shows. Any monies over and above such funds shall be kept in a separate interest bearing account: accepted.

There were comments to the effect that decisions to allocate more than £500 of Show funds should be taken at an EGM. However, it was also commented that the Committee should be capable of deciding this at the bimonthly meetings. A further comment was that recommendations for expenditure be made at the AGM for approval by the attendees, and that an EGM would be arranged only if deemed necessary at that AGM.

- It is never clear exactly how much money will always be available at any given time – the weather being the determining factor whether a year is successful or not.
- Small amendment: renumber from **8. Meetings** onwards (should be **6. Meetings** etc);
- **7 [9] Dissolution:** this would occur only if there were no money left to fund a Show, rather than there were no interest in arranging one.

It was proposed and seconded (two-thirds carried) that, subject to the clarification of what Membership involved, the Constitution would be uploaded to the village website before ratification.

Minute No. 972 – Support Group

The Vice-chairman gave his report, the main points of which are as follows in paraphrase:

- a natural division into two camps had occurred: those who regularly attended the Support Group meetings, and those who preferred to help at Flower Show weekend.
- Rhys Richards and another resident had shown interest in helping with security.
- The Twerzels were booked for the 2011 dance. This should help with security lapses and funds.
- the Support Group had contributed greatly to the Show over the last two years. Two options for continuing to support could be a) those who preferred to help at the Flower Show weekend to convene at less regular intervals, maybe at weekends, and on a less formal basis; b) those who preferred more regular commitment to join the main Committee.

Minute No. 973 – Any other business

Andy proposed that the Flower Show should have a President, and that the President should be Manfred. Discussion resulted in a proposal that the Presidency should be a personal, honorary award if and when a suitable person was available to take on the role for five (renewable) years. Proposal seconded and carried unanimously. Manfred said he was honoured to accept, to general applause.

Minute No. 974 – Election of committee

All proposed, seconded, carried:

Chairman	Bob Fill
Vice-chairperson	vacant
Treasurer	Lorna Noble
Show organiser	Andy Jacobs
Secretary	Rowena Alsey
Committee members	Jane Shire, Chris Brook, Nicky Goad, Tony Perry, Malcolm Reid, Janet Richards

The Chairman thanked all who had attended. The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Minute Number 975 – Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting will be Tuesday 25 January 2011 in the Reading Room, Norton.

Signed (Chairman) Date