

Andrew Haynes, President, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Penny Cleaver, Tricia Newton, Angela Edwards, Joan Smithies, Michael and Heather Marrow, Julie Walker, Susan Solomon, Joan Crompton.

Minutes of the AGM 2019, had been circulated previously. There were no matters arising. They were proposed by Richard Cooke, seconded by Sue Hough and accepted unanimously as a true record.

Chairman's Report: Debbie Steel began with an update on Membership numbers which now stand at 207, with average Attendance increasing year by year. In addition to our usual speakers, we had hosted Gardeners' Question Time, organised two coach trips and the annual four day holiday. We are currently organising the National AGM & Lecture day for March with guest speakers Keith Wiley and Matt Reese. Debbie asked members to contribute feedback, suggest speakers, venues for outings and any ideas for the group generally. She thanked all those leaving the committee and welcomed the new members. She gave special thanks to Jane Norris, who is a long-standing member, for her many roles whilst a committee member and her huge support. Debbie shared the very sad news of Barbara Gooch's illness; she had been a mainstay of the committee for a long time and played a big part in the community. She will be much missed.

Financial Report and presentation of the Annual Statement of Accounts (which had been checked independently), was given by Richard Cooke. Richard detailed the accounts for the year, explaining how Membership fees alone would not allow the group to function adequately. However, the raffle, refreshments and plant sales all contributed and allowed the group to continue in its present healthy form. A very successful year. The accounts were proposed by Eric Watson and seconded by Jane Norris, all in favour.

Election of Officers: Debbie Steel was nominated unopposed to serve a fourth year as Chair; Sue Hough proposed, seconded by Robert Plummer; Richard Cooke, Treasurer, nominated unopposed, proposed by Janice Walters, seconded by Leonie Oldfield; Penny Cleaver, Secretary, nominated unopposed, proposed by Wendy Poole, seconded by Ann Plummer. All were elected unanimously.

Election of Committee: Judy Spratley and Elaine Lofthouse were eligible to stand for a further year, nominated unopposed.

New members, Rowena Jecock, Helen McIlmuray and Liz Underwood, all nominated unopposed. All were proposed by Gerry McLachlan, seconded by Barbara Melton and were elected unanimously.

Any Other Business – to discuss the options for the serving of refreshments at speaker meetings.

This matter had arisen due to the number of members being served, shortage of space and limited time at the interval. Debbie took comments from members on continuing to serve at the break in the talk or whether we should serve as members arrive before the meeting. A vote was taken resulting in 60 members for serving on arrival and 40 members for continuing to serve at the break in the talk. This will be taken back to the next committee meeting for discussion.

Signed as a true copy
Andrew Haynes, President
February 2021