HARTEST & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on November 4th 2019 at 7.35 pm in the Institute Hall, Hartest.

The Chair, Roger Quince, welcomed all those present and thanked them for attending.

(The sheet later showed that there were 21 members present and 13 apologies.)

He began by telling the members the sad news of the death of Mrs. Pat Tebbit – a staunch supporter of the Gardening Club and frequent winner of the Silver Salver at the Annual Show.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting for November 5th 2018 were distributed, and were agreed as a true record.

**Matters Arising**

None.

**Treasurers Report**

Copies of the Annual Accounts were circulated and are attached. As the Treasurer could not be present, the Chairman ran through them.

He said it was the Committee’s aim to keep a reasonable cash balance, to cover the variable that is our main source of income – the Plant Sale. The balance at the moment of £647.34 has dropped below the ideal level. The Plant Sale this year raised £100 less than last year and the subsidy on the December meal in 2018 had been £280. These were the main reasons for the decrease in the cash balance.

Speaker costs had increased, but had more or less been matched by the annual and monthly subscriptions and the raffles – which continue to underpin the clubs performance.

If the balance drops markedly again, the Committee will re-assess the situation.

**Report on Speakers**

Jill Armstrong told the meeting that the speakers over the past year had been very professional, that although they are costing more, the quality has also increased, as more see talks as being part of their job. She is happy to receive ideas from members for areas that they would like covered in talks, or if they know of any speakers they think we should get to come to us. The Programme for 2020 also looks very interesting, with some exciting, younger and different speakers coming, who will be including practical demonstrations in their talks.

**Report from the Chair**

The Chairman agreed that we had heard some very good speakers, and that ones who didn’t depend on a lot of slides were often better. The Show had been excellent again, the judges had commented how they were pleasantly surprised that we are able to continue to make it such a success.

The Plant Sale income was down, but this followed the 2018 Sale which had raised a record sum.

The Chairman thanked all his colleagues on the Committee for their hard work over the year and invited members to volunteer to join them, or to nominate somebody else, either at the meeting or at a later date.

**Committee Appointments**

The current committee were happy to continue for another year.

**December meeting**

The Committee has decided to move the meal from the Institute to the Crown this year.

This will give us a bigger choice of menu, and will cut out the fixed costs of the waitresses and the hire of the hall.

We will see if the subsidy is reduced by this move.

**Any Other Business**

Members were reminded that seed catalogues were available, they could order either online or through the Secretary, and would get a 50% discount.

Meeting closed at 7.55pm and was followed by a very entertaining talk from Charlie Hart on his journey to purchasing his garden “Skymeadow”, his work on it and how it helps his mental health, and his new career as a writer.