

# The Essex Dahlia Society

Minutes of the 49<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL Meeting held on

Saturday 12th May 2018 at 3.30 PM

at St JOHN PAYNE, Lower School, Patching Hall Lane

The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was attended by 10 members.

1. Apologies – received from Linda Owens
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and Matters Arising.

The minutes were approved subject to amendments and there were no matters arising not covered by the Agenda.

3. Chairman's Report which also cover items 4 & 5 financial situation & membership

Alan Taylor reported that the financial situation of the Society at the 2017 AGM was not good, which was the reason for the change of venue for the Main Show in 2017. A financial report was circulated which showed the break-down of costs for the new venue as well as for the 2 Mini-Shows. The last page shows that the Assets for 2016/17 have increased from 2015/16, which shows that the "rot" has been stopped, due to the change in Venue.

Alan felt that the change in emphasis on the committee thanks to the new members who had joined the Committee in 2017 was working well. He thanked Paul for his work with the web-site and Graham also for his help with the web-site. Although the web-site had cost £450.00 it had proved a good investment.

Although the move to Writtle College for the Main Show had caused teething problems, these had all been overcome without any real complaint, although some had tried to find fault. Some observed that the stage had proved difficult for some people to use the steps, it should not be a problem this year, due to the move to the Northumberland Hall.

All the Trophy classes were very good and the Single Blooms well supported

The Show was a financial success, however, it will cost more this year as we have to hire tables for the Main Show and the hire charges for the St John Payne School hall for the 2 Mini-Shows are due to increase, so we must expect to see a drop in revenue. However, the Web-site cost was a one off, but there will be ongoing charges for maintenance.

Re: The Plant Sale – We need to focus on the plant sale, with maybe a change of emphasis another year, as most people who come to the sale are attracted to the colour of the flowers. We do not have many specialist Dahlia growers coming to the sale as in past years. We could consider a change of venue.

Discussion followed, when it was suggested that we could have a plant stall at the Essex Young Farmer's Show, or sell tubers in pots.

The President, Alan Ripley suggested that we should not worry, but that the Committee look at it and make a plan.

It was agreed to discuss this at a Committee meeting and Paul mentioned that he had a Gazebo which could be used at the Young Farmer's event.

Whatever was decided we did not want to incur more expenses and must not overstretch ourselves.

Alan reported that we had about 33 members. Some have paid or will pay through the membership form on the web-site.

Alan was thanked for all his work.

6. Election of President

The Chairman thanked the President, Alan Ripley for his support over the last year and for presenting the prizes at the Main Show.

Alan Taylor Proposed Alan Ripley as President for the forthcoming year, this was seconded by John Cullen and Alan Ripley was elected unopposed.

7. Election of Vice-Presidents –

There were no new Vice-Presidents elected and the existing Vice-Presidents were elected unopposed.

8. Election of Chairman –

Alan Taylor was proposed as Chairman, by Kate Chambers and seconded by John Cullen

9. Election of Secretary –

Kate Chambers was proposed as Secretary by Alan Taylor and seconded by John Cullen.

10. Election of Treasurer –

John Cullen was proposed as Treasurer by Alan Taylor and seconded by Kate Chambers

11. Election of Committee Members. –

All the Committee have agreed to continue on the Committee.

12. A.O.B

We needed to pay the invoice for the Web-site.

It was agreed not to charge an entrance fee to the Main Show.

Feed-back from the Schedule. Some members not happy that we are not giving prize money for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places, however, the Committee felt that the decision not to give prize money for 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> places, was right. It was felt that people did not enter their flowers just to win small amounts of money.

A query was mentioned as to how this would affect the RHS Banksian Medal. This needed to be checked with the RHS.

Alan thanked everyone for their help with the Plant Sale and to Margaret Wills for the teas etc. and to John Cullen for donating the food for lunch.

The President, Alan Ripley, thanked Alan Taylor for being such an industrious Chairman.

The meeting closed at 4.40 pm.