

**ORLETON AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB**  
**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2010**

There were 47 members present at the meeting

**1. Apologies:** Kate Snape, Lynn Hyde, 'The Ramblers', Brian and Linda Pettit

**2. Minutes of the 2009 AGM:**

Approved proposed Sheila Hough  
seconded Ann Turtle  
carried unanimously.

**3. Matters arising:** none

**4. Chairman's report:** copy attached

**5. Treasurers report:** Lyn Jones presented the audited accounts and recommended that, in view of the healthy bank balance, there should be no increase in the annual membership fee.

Acceptance of accounts: proposed Hilary Hawkins  
seconded Shelley Choat  
carried unanimously

**6. Programme Secretary's report:** In Lynn Hyde's absence, Ann Turtle presented the programme for the forthcoming year, which is to be the last one Lynn would organise, details of which are already on the website. The Chairman thanked Lynn for all her hard work and in her absence, she was applauded for all her work over the last 15 years

**7. Adoption of reports:** proposed Martin Page  
seconded Shelley Choat  
carried unanimously

**8. Correspondence:** none

**9. General:**

**Changes to the rules:** The Committee have recommended changes to the Club Rules, details of which have been circulated and available on the website for the last two months. Only one comment had been received, which the Committee felt had been fully covered by the changes.

Approval of the amendment to the Rules proposed Jeremy Howell Thomas  
seconded Sheila Hough  
carried unanimously

**August Show:** As already indicated, the Committee were very disappointed in the turn out for the August Show, in view of the work that goes into organising it. It has been

agreed to give it one more year and Roger Stevens has taken on the challenge of increasing the entries.

**10. Election of Officers:**

a)	Chairman	Sue Brown	Proposed - Di Belton-Elliot Seconded - Jane Lacey Carried unanimously
b)	Vice Chairman	Martin Page	Proposed - Hilary Hawkins Seconded - Shelley Choat Carried unanimously
c)	Secretary	Monica Todd	Proposed - Jane Lacey Seconded - Di Belton-Elliot Carried unanimously
d)	Treasurer	Lyn Jones	Proposed - Margarett Lyon Seconded - Di Howell-Thomas Carried unanimously

**10. Election of Committee Members:**

The remaining Committee members who had not been elected as Officers were prepared to stay on the Committee - Shelley Choat, David Davies, Sheila Hough, Jennifer Kelley, Roger Stevens and Ann Turtle

Proposed - Lyn Jones    Seconded - Di Belton-Elliot    Carried - unanimously

There has also been one new nomination - Tricia Clanzy-Hodge

Proposed    Monica Todd  
Seconded    Sue Brown  
Carried unanimously

**11. Appointment of Auditor:**

Helen Webb has audited the accounts for the last three years, but has not yet confirmed that she is happy to carry on

**12. Any other business:**                  None

Chairman's report – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010

Well, another year has passed and I'm sure if you have grown fruit and vegetables your freezers are still bursting at the seams like ours. The harvest seems to have been pretty good again. But, once again we had rather a dull summer during July and August; nevertheless there has been plenty of colour in the gardens

As usual, the number of members has fluctuated again this year. We have closed the year with 109 members having welcomed 15 new members during the year. Generally, we have about 60 people attending each event. This is great for us on the committee as it makes it all the more worthwhile as so many people enjoy all that the club has to offer, friendship as well as gardening.

I hope you have all enjoyed our programme of events throughout the year. We have had a wide variety of speakers many of whom have commented on the attendance and enthusiasm of our club and its members – they are invariably impressed that so many of you turn up to hear them speak. We even received a thank you letter from one speaker – it's normally the other way around – we write to thank them! We did of course have a couple of cancelled talks; one we managed to put on a quiz at the last minute and the other Maurice Bracher stood in to help us out.

Talking of the Programme, I would like to say a HUGE Thank You to Lyn Hyde who once again put together an interesting programme of speakers for 2010.

Shortly Lyn will tell us about the speakers she has arranged for 2011. She has handed over the job of Programme secretary to committee member, Ann Turtle, but not before arranging the speakers for 2011. She is standing down from this role after 15 years – I'm sure you agree, that's a long time and we can't thank Lyn enough for her dedication to the Gardening Club

There are many others who help behind the scene, so to speak, who are not on the committee, but very much part of the club!

So, thanks go to Helen Webb: She kindly audits our accounts – a tedious task but one that has to be done. Thank you, Helen.

Also thanks to Joanne Thorley who writes the report for the Grapevine – we are very grateful for her help with this. We know she has a busy time with her children, and her job.

I must thank Louise Thorn and Sybil White, who run the plant stall at the club meetings as well as David Davies and Verna for selling the raffle tickets. All helping to raise funds for the club.

Thanks too, to Penny Usher and Rowena Gale who opened their beautiful gardens to the club members in July. Weren't we lucky with the weather! It was one of the best Supper evenings I remember – I can't believe we had so many people for a sit down buffet in Penny's garden. It was extremely kind of Penny to open her garden *and her home* in this way.

I would like to thank Shelley Choat and Jennifer Kelley who between them arrange the club trips and the annual dinner and lunch. We had a wonderful coach trip to Abbey House Gardens in Malmesbury – I know many people wish to return there to see the roses in full bloom – and a trip to the other Orleton – pronounced OrlEton – in Worcestershire.

We dined out a couple of times – one dinner at The Charlton Arms in March and our now regular club lunch at Titley Village Hall. Jennifer has already arranged for us to return to Titley in November 2011, but we are ringing the changes in March and have booked the Riverside Inn at Aymestrey.

I musn't forget all the helpers at the Orleton Village Hall Fete. Not only those who help out on the day but all those who so generously grow plants for us to sell. We raised £438.33 for the Village Hall and we also sent a donation of £25 to St. Michael's Hospice in Memory of Bill Ottaway. The £25 was raised by selling gardening items of Bill's which his family had donated to the club.

Likewise at the Midsummer and especially the Annual show in August I would like to thank everyone who participated. All our stewards and our exhibitors. I know it is an enormous effort – even though I do not enter anything, I see the work that Paul puts into growing his plants.

I would like to express my thanks to my fellow committee members; I know how hard you all work to keep the club running.

Thanks in particular to Monica Todd who does a marvellous job as secretary, and to Lyn Jones who is our Treasurer. Both these roles are so important to the business of the club.

Last, and by certainly no means, least, I would like to give my thanks to all our helpers. Those of you who come to help set up the hall, all those who make the refreshments every month, especially those of you that help out at short notice.

If I have missed thanking anyone, I apologise, but you can be assured that your help has been truly appreciated. I suppose, really, I should just thank everyone for making our Gardening Club such a friendly, interesting and lively club. We wouldn't be here without you all.

Now, on to the Agenda. Please interrupt if there is anything you wish to say.