

Minutes of the 2021 Town Show AGM

Held at The Six Bells on Tuesday, 15th February 2022 at

7 p.m.

Present: Chairman Peter Buckley, Show Manager Alan Humphrey, Treasurer Anita Buckley, Assist. Treasurer Helen Austin, Secretary Judith Cook including the retiring Committee.

Apologies: Diane Hedditch, Tricia Johnson and David Stubbings. Christina Iden joined the meeting via WhatsApp

The meeting was chaired by the Chairman pending the election of the new Committee.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman started by thanking those, who despite the cold evening had made the meeting tonight and was very pleased to welcome all to the 2021 Littlehampton Town Show AGM stating that it is extremely important that we get as many members of the community attending our AGM as possible as this is their Town Show and the hard work put in by members of the committee is to ensure there is an event to look forward to each year. As it happens, there wasn't a single Member of the Public who attended.

The Minutes of the 2019 AGM were referred to and proposed they be accepted as a true record of the meeting by Alan Humphrey and seconded by Anita Buckley, agreed by those present.

A copy of The Chairman's Full Report is on Page 3.

Treasurer's Report: A copy of the balance sheet had been distributed in advance of the AGM and was explained by the Treasurer and a copy of the full report is on Page 4.

The Treasurer thanked the Accountant Les Drew for auditing the accounts and providing his services free of charge. A proposal to accept the report was made by L Drew and seconded by W Humphrey, agreed by those present, motion carried.

Show Manager's Report: The Show Manager gave details of the 2021 Event and confirmed that there were 507 entries in total this year which was down on previous years, but the Community entries were up, of which 29 were from children which is again down from previous years. There were 91 exhibitors of which 25/30 were 1st time exhibitors. The Show Manager reported the show went very well considering Covid and all the problems. Set up again went well with extra help this year but packing up is still a problem, we need to get extra help put in place before the next show. The Show Manager went on to discuss the children's entries that were down but said it was difficult, we need to see what happens after this year. A discussion about taking the age off the cards was raised but agreed this would need to be discussed in detail at a later meeting.

Les Drew confirmed that it was a great show and although we had lost some sponsorship we also had new sponsors. He had seen Kieran from the Town Council who had confirmed he had now been put in charge of a new Events Team and that they were putting together all manner of things throughout the coming year, including the Town Show (and of course the Platinum Celebrations) and that yes, he would love to attend one of our Meetings.

The Show Manager confirmed he was waiting for the paperwork back from the RHS but confirmed we are insured from 1st February.

Election of Committee:

- Chairman:** P Buckley – Proposed by J Cook – Seconded by W Humphrey – Agreed
- Vice Chairman:** D Hedditch – Proposed by W Humphrey – Seconded by A Buckley – Agreed
- Treasurer:** A Buckley – Proposed by H Austin – Seconded by W Humphrey - Agreed
- Assistant Treasurer:** H Austin – Proposed by W Humphrey – Seconded by A Buckley – Agreed
- Secretary:** J Cook – Proposed by P Buckley – Seconded by W Humphrey – Agreed
- Show Manager:** A Humphrey – Proposed by P Buckley – Seconded by L Drew – Agreed
- Sponsorship:** L Drew – Proposed by J Cook – Seconded by A Buckley – Agreed
- Social Media Co-Coordinator:** C Iden/T Johnson – Proposed by P Buckley – Seconded by A Humphrey - Agreed
- Committee:** W Humphrey, T Humphrey and Rebekah Head (18 yrs, daughter of Tricia Johnson) – Proposed by A Buckley – Seconded by J Cook – Agreed

Alan Humphrey nominated as Show Manager requested we put on the next Agenda a proposal for someone to shadow him as there will be times he will not be available due to other commitments.

Resignation received from F Jolly prior to the meeting. During the election of officers/committee Carol Humphrey advised she was standing down but offered to help where she could.

Any Other Business:

- 1 The Chairman advised that we should discuss setting up a WhatsApp Group and requested the Secretary to put this on the next Agenda.
- 2 The Secretary was also requested to put “Schedule planning” on the next Agenda as this needs to be organised for the next meeting and the Show Manager asked the Secretary to email through the new Committee so he could amend the Schedule.
- 3 It was agreed to hold a meeting on Thursday, 10th March 2022 at 7 p.m. to be held at The Six Bells, Lyminster.

With no other business the meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman advised we had received apologies from Tricia Johnson, Diane Hedditch and Christina Iden. It would appear that Covid is still having an effect on some of our lives in various ways. We had also received an apology from David Stubbings and the Secretary as requested to pass over Mr Stubbings contact details for the Chairman to email over a copy of his Report.

Unfortunately due to the Covid 19 Pandemic we had no choice but to cancel the Littlehampton Town Show in 2020. This also caused serious issues surrounding the arranging of meetings of the committee and virtually obliterated any opportunities for fundraising. As the Town Show is totally reliant on the hard work carried out by the committee, who give up all their time for free, and fundraising from the local community and business this meant that there was a significant reduction in monies received into our accounts.

However rather than just sit back and resign ourselves to the fact that there would be no Show in 2020 I am very pleased to report that the Committee instead sought to "look outside the box" and think of other ways to engage with the community.

The Committee, led by Christina Iden and Tricia Johnson, decided to run various competitions online. These were very well supported and provided and maintained an important link between the local community and the Town Show over these very trying times. Presentations of the prizes were supported by the Lady Mayor and received positive local media coverage. This also led to major improvements in the Littlehampton Town Shows website and a very active and regularly maintained Facebook page. As you can imagine to ensure regular content updates and to maintain this social media presence takes considerable work and time. I would therefore like to record my thanks to Christina and Tricia and also urge members of the committee and the community to provide as much content as possible to them to help them continue this very important work. We have certainly been dragged, willingly, into the 21st century as far as social media presence is concerned. We have also gained a considerable following on this media and there are now a large number of the community on our e-mailing lists.

Although the Covid Pandemic was still present I was pleased that the Committee took the brave decision to commit to plan for the 2021 Town Show. This is a considerable piece of work to complete in the time available.

The Show duly took place in September 2021 and was an absolute success. I have never seen so many happy faces and received so many positive comments from members of the public, who were so pleased to be able to exhibit their work and produce in the various classes, visit the marquee or purchase such high quality produce, handicrafts and items donated by exhibitors or local business at the after show auction.

You will hear further detail from Alan the Show Manager and Anita the Treasurer regarding specifics, however I must say that the number of exhibitors, especially new exhibitors and the number of visitors to the marquee was extremely good, very near to our best years and certainly above numbers experienced by some other local shows held that year.

We received very good coverage in local media and also featured live on local radio, together with good social media content.

We had run an earlier competition online to submit photographs of Littlehampton. The winning photographs were then used to produce a 2022 Calendar. The sales of these on the day were amazing, selling out our initial stock and receiving orders for over 30 more. A further supply were printed, which we sold out except for three that were returned unsold. This produced a significant revenue and will certainly be repeated this year.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of the Committee for all their hard work, to the Lady Mayor for her support on the day and presenting the awards, to the exhibitors, to the local community and business who support us with donations or provide free services throughout the year and finally to everyone who visited our marquee on the day. The Littlehampton Town Show is extremely important for the local community and I can assure you that I and the whole Committee, with the support of the community will do all we can to ensure that it continues this year and in the future.

TREASURERS REPORT

FINANCE REPORT

We don't have any accounts from last year as such to compare this year so I will look at 2019 figures.

Sponsorship was down from £1,366.00 to £990.54 this year.

Calendars were a great fund raiser.

Sales of £893.64 minus printing of £500 resulted in a profit of £393.64

Les had given 10 to a lady in town of which a further 7 were sold which is an additional £35 which will show up in 2022 accounts. This makes a profit of £428.64

This leaves 3 that did not get sold if anyone could sell them at a discounted price that would be great.

Entry Fees These were down by £10.20 on 2019 being 51 less entries.

Auction This was up by £97.27 people are now becoming aware of this so hopefully we can build on this.

Bank Compensation We received £50 due to the bank messing us about with the name changes.

EXPENDITURE

Subs & Affiliations these have gone up from £180 | 2020 & 2019 to £274

This was £180 – RHS Subs Additional expenses came from £59 Dahlia Soc

£15 Chrysanthemum Soc £20 UK Society Affiliation which did not occur 2019,2020

All other expenses are on par with previous years.

Trophy Expenses These incurred this year due to online competitions due to Covid.

You can see that this year we have made a profit of £537.36 which is a little up on 2019 but bearing in mind sponsorship was down that is a good result.

Bank Balances

So as at the end of our financial year 2021 we have:

Current a/c £1,508.64

Deposit a/c £2,301.38 giving an overall reserve of £3,810.02

This was not a bad year after all that has happened.

So going forward:

This year we will see additional expenses from the bank as we will now incur bank charges until we can transfer to another bank. This has been ongoing with myself and Helen Austin and hopefully we can get it sorted this year.

The calendars were a huge success and a good fund raiser for the coming year with more available at the show.

We need to build the sponsorship up again.

And finally try for some different fund raising events to boost our funds.
