

COWBRIDGE PHYSIC GARDEN TRUST LIMITED

MINUTES OF THE 11TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY HELD

AT THE BEAR HOTEL, COWBRIDGE,

ON WEDNESDAY, 23RD MARCH, 2016 at 6.30pm

In attendance: Chairman: Jo Homfray

Trustees:	Martyn Hurst	Graham Duffield	Genevieve Thomas
	Robert Moore	Linda Osborn	Pamela Haines
	Val Caple (Minute Secretary)		

Members:

John & Anna Andrew	Roger Bird	Michael & Catherine Clay
Dan Clayton Jones	Robert Cope	Elaine Davey
Sue Duffield	Peter & Collette Evans	Rebecca Exley
John Foster-Thomas	Mary Gowen	Francis & Sue Hayes
Margaret & Roger Helliwell	John Homfray	Colwyn & Pamela Jones
Derrick Kingham	Leo Meredith	Suzie Morel
Andrew & Nina Parker	Pamela Robins	Jill Roberts
Pat & Brian Swain	Basil Watkins	Jo Williams

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the members for their attendance and support.

2. Apologies

Trustees : Mary Wallis
Gillian Griffiths

Members:

Christopher and Diana Brain	Rose Clay	Lin Edwards
Tony & Chris Gill	David Mansel Jones	Derek & Anne Morgan
Jean Reader	Brendagh Richards	Charles & Venetia Sanders
Hilary Thomas	Caryl Whelan	Jenny & Peter Whiting
Anne Williams		

3. Minutes of the A.G.M. 2014

The chairman asked that the notice of the meeting and the minutes, which have been available on the website, be taken as read.

This was approved by the meeting.

The Minutes were approved and accepted.

Proposed by	Basil Watkins
Seconded by	Dan Clayton Jones

4. Chairman's Report

This is a terrific landmark year for the Cowbridge Physic Garden, in that we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of its Official Opening. Few people could have envisaged that it would be such a success all those years ago. We have been blessed with a great Board of Trustees, exceptional volunteers and very supportive Members. Some dear Friends of the Garden and Trustees are sadly no longer with us, but in various ways their memories live on in this beautiful little jewel in the centre of Cowbridge. Last May Rose Clay decided to step down from being a

Trustee — we thank her for her invaluable horticultural advice, her impressive contacts and her work — she continues to share the maintenance of the Infections bed with me. We also say goodbye to Bryan Bird as a Trustee, but he assures us that he will continue to support us in any way he can and especially in selling our cards, umbrellas and tea towels. I am delighted to announce that we have two new Trustees. Pamela Haines, a qualified lawyer as well as a linguist (could prove useful with European visitors!), she has kindly agreed to be Company Secretary of the Trust. Gillian Griffiths has long been one of most dedicated volunteers in the Garden. Gillian keeps us all absolutely up to the mark on all of the Garden Office work and lists. She is also an RHS Gold Medallist in Botanical Art. Gillian has been working on a Florilegium of the Cowbridge Physic Garden in the last few years — these exquisite paintings will be on display this year at the Summer Garden Party on June 24th. She will be donating the Florilegium to the National Museum of Wales for safekeeping with a proviso that anyone associated with the CPG may go and look at it when they wish.

As a result of Bill Asscher’s legacy, the summerhouses now boast wonderful new pillars, and other works will take place shortly which Graham will tell you all about.

I would like to thank my Vice Chairman Martyn Hurst for his able support, and indeed all the Chairmen of the various Sub Committees for the work they have done during the year. There is much more that goes on in keeping this garden running smoothly than people probably realise. Lastly but by no means least, my thanks to Genevieve — an amazingly calm and able presence. There can’t be a better Treasurer in the Vale!

5. Re-appointment of Trustees/Directors retiring by rotation

It was resolved that the following who are retiring in accordance with the Articles of Association be and are hereby re-appointed as Trustees and Directors of the Company:

Martyn Hurst	Proposed by	Robert Cope
	Seconded by	Robert Moore
Graham Duffield	Proposed by	Francis Hayes
	Seconded by	Leo Meredith

6. Appointment of new Trustees/Directors

It was resolved that the following who have been appointed by the Board of Directors since the last Annual General Meeting are hereby re-appointed as Trustees and Directors of the Company:

Pamela Haines	Proposed by	John Foster Thomas
	Seconded by	Linda Osborn
Gillian Griffiths	Proposed by	Jo Williams
	Seconded by	Michael Clay

7. Accounts for the year ended 30 June, 2015

We once again had a very successful year.

The total income for the year was £29,964 of which 76% was from Voluntary Income (i.e. donations and membership fees) 22% from Activities for Generating Funds (i.e. functions and sales) and the balance was investment income. This total includes the magnificent bequest from Sir William Asscher of £10,000.

The total expenditure, before depreciation, was £29,232 of which 88% was for Charitable Activities Costs (i.e. upkeep and promotion of the garden) and the balance was the Costs of Generating Funds (i.e. functions and sales) and Governance. The Charitable Activities Costs were as last year about £10,000 plus £16,000 for the restoration of the summer houses. This restoration was largely funded by Bill Asscher’s bequest and a donation from The Simon Gibson Charitable Trust.

This gave a net surplus for the year before depreciation was £732 but as the garden is being depreciated over the term of the lease i.e. 25 years to 2031, there is depreciation of £11,175 to be deducted. The final figure for the

year was therefore Net Outgoings of £10,443.

We also replaced 8 of the benches at a total cost of £4,608; these have added to the cost of the garden and will be depreciated over the remaining years of the lease.

The Net Current Assets at the year end were £76,498 most of which is on deposit but we do have some more maintenance projects to be carried out over the coming months.

It was resolved that the Accounts for the year ended 30 June, 2015 be and are hereby received.

Proposed by	Dan Clayton Jones
Seconded by	Robert Moore

8. Reports were given by:

Mr. Martyn Hurst, Trustee (Marketing and PR)

Being chair of the marketing and publicity committee is a relatively easy task, as I am so lucky to have such a talented and willing team who do so much of the work!

So most of my comments are going to be a series of 'thank you's'.

But to some achievements first. For the 7th year running, we have been awarded the prestigious 'green flag' – something we do not take for granted - and it's down to the efforts of the volunteers who make the garden so wonderful in the first place and to Robert Moore for undertaking the form filling for the application.

Then we also achieved the highest possible Level 5 Outstanding Assessment in the RHS Wales in Bloom "It's Your neighbourhood" category plus an RHS National Certificate of Distinction.

Thanks to winning these awards, the garden has been invited to have a presence in the RHS Show in Bute Park, next to Cardiff Castle on April 15th to 17th. Many thanks to Pamela Haines for organizing the rota of volunteers to help on the stand. There are still one or two slots left and it's worth saying that by spending just two hours on the stand, you get free entry to the whole show. So if you would like free entry, and be enthusiastic about the garden, just let Pamela know!

During the year, the garden was featured – in fact starred – in an S4C gardening programme – a big thank you to Carys Whelan for presenting it so well.

More thankyou's: to Rebecca Exley who does sterling work on organizing group visits, to Val Caple who puts the Newsletter together, to Genevieve who keeps an steely grip on the purse strings and to Jo for invaluable advice and guidance.

Now, as this year is the garden's official 10th birthday, we are celebrating by publishing the definitive book of the garden. A number of volunteers have contributed their exceptional knowledge as far as content is concerned. Robert Moore has put a huge amount of talent and effort into the photography and it's being edited by Linda Osborn so a big thank you to everyone involved.

The book will be launched at the members' garden party on June 24th.

Mrs. Sue Duffield (Horticulture)

Firstly on behalf of the Garden Group can I thank all our gardening volunteers for all the work they have done this year. We are fortunate to have a full complement of volunteers at present but if anyone wishes to join us we will be happy to place them on our waiting list.

We have lost two trees this year. Firstly the Norwegian Maple which was already in the garden, this had considerable decay so had to come down. Secondly the Pagoda tree which had outgrown its space particularly since the building of the adjacent houses, this will be replaced by a Myrtle.

The area next to the pergola has had a revamp. Grass has been sown and snakes head fritillaries and primroses planted. Some of the original bulbs will remain. We hope this will be more successful.

We would like to thank Rob Evans from Pheasant Acre Bulbs for his donation of some tulip bulbs which have been planted in the bed next to the old hail entrance and also in two of the planters.

We are still offering garden tours and talks to groups - thank you to Rebecca for coordinating these. A thank you also to Carys for conducting these in Welsh when required.

Our plant sales continue to do well and have picked up in the last couple of weeks with the better weather. We

sell plants every Thursday, weather permitting, along with Gillian's cards and Brendagh's preserves, they also deserve our thanks.

Finally a reminder about our Plant Sale Saturday April 23rd from 10 am to 3 pm. We will have a large stall and 9 nurseries will also be present. Any donations of plants for us to sell would be gratefully received if they can be brought to the garden on any Thursday. Thank you.

Mr. Graham Duffield, Trustee (Maintenance)

During 2015 the maintenance group have been involved in the usual collection and erection of Gazebos for the Plant Sale in April and Members party in June. Throughout the year we have also mowed the lawns and this continued up until December.

In April 2015 we commenced the renewal of the compost bins, only to be brought to a sudden halt when we discovered a robin's nest complete with robin and eggs. The delay did not last too long however as the nest and the eggs mysteriously disappeared and that remains a mystery to this day. In May we were then able to complete the task just in time to accommodate the grass cuttings from the lawn.

We were eventually successful in finding a suitable contractor to source and install replacement columns on the Summerhouses. Darren Richardson of DJR Technical Services was awarded the contract in May 2015 and the columns were at last replaced in July 2015.

Moving on to projects for this year we are now awaiting a return visit from Darren of DJR Services to apply either Lime Wash or mineral paint to the Summerhouse Pediments and also to re-point the slabs under the pergola. He is due to carry out this work in May.

Other maintenance projects for this coming year include:

- The need to address the erosion on the fountain plinth, possibly using lead sheeting.
- Replacing the stone dust on the paths
- Renewal of the Water Butts
- Also, of course the usual erecting of Gazebos, lawn cutting, fountain emptying and refilling and many more minor requests from the Garden Group.

The maintenance group lost John Sherwood last year as his commitment with Old Hall Gardens was making it difficult for him to also support us. I would however like to record our thanks to John for his support to the maintenance. Luckily we had gained some new volunteers after the AGM last year and the team now consists of David Edmunds, Peter Jarvis, Roger Helliwell, Phil Dennis and Harry Jones. I take this opportunity to acknowledge their contribution to all our maintenance activities throughout the year.

The Chairman thanked the trustees for their reports.

9. AOB

Concern was expressed about the ivy growing over the Town Wall from Rose Cottage. Sue Duffield, on behalf of the Horticulture Group, responded by saying that they were keen to keep some for the benefit of the wildlife, but were keeping it under control to ensure the wall was not damaged

The meeting closed at 7pm.

After a short break Jo invited as many as possible to stay for the interesting talk on the new Welsh Botanic Gardens project: to restore the Regency landscape in the historic park of Middleton Hall, given by Helen John.

Signed.....

Chairman