**Corbridge Gardening Society**

**Minutes of AGM 17th March 2016**

**President’s Report:** In place of this, Ian Clarke announced that, very sadly, we had just learned of the unexpected death of society member Anthony Coon and asked for a minute’s reflection.

**Minutes of AGM 2015:** approved and passed nem con.

**Chair’s Report:** Jen Simpson reminded us that Day Trips were bookable only by CGS members until the Close Date indicated; after that family and friends were welcome to buy any remaining tickets. The series of talks and the members’ night had been successful, but in order to keep up a full programme of events from next year we will need to replace six committee members. In the absence of enough volunteers this year, four of the existing committee have agreed to serve for an extra year but will need to leave in 2017. A couple of members have agreed to organise a seed exchange and the society is always pleased to welcome such initiatives.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Derek Walker distributed his Statement of Accounts with the AGM papers. This shows the society incurring a small loss of £229 on the year 2015/16 – despite Derek’s negotiating compensation of £200 from the Financial Ombudsman after expressing his dissatisfaction with the society’s former bankers, Barclays. Members were exhorted to pay by SO wherever possible, and to help the society’s cashflow by supporting its chief money-making event, the Plant Sale in May. Charitable donations for this period amounted to £1300 (Corbridge in Bloom, Abbeyfield, Charlotte Straker and Tynedale Hospice at Home). Derek finished by thanking society members for their sympathy and support for him after his recent bereavement.

**Election of New Members**: JS thanked all committee members for their efforts during 2015/16. Leaving in March 2016 are: Derek Walker, Lynn Curtis and Gay How. Fran Harrison was proposed as Treasurer by Derek Walker and seconded by Jen Simpson. Alison Carter was proposed as Secretary by Jane Hastings and seconded by Margaret Johnson. Jane Hastings, Moira Jocelyn, Sasha Brookes and Margaret Johnson have all indicated their willingness to serve for a fourth year and this was agreed on a show of hands.

**Secretary’s Report**: Lynn Curtis thanked Jen Simpson and Derek Parker for their help and support for her while she was Secretary. Alison Carter will replace her and ensure the smooth running of the society.

**AOB:** members were reminded of the society’s forthcoming Spring Show, Plant Sale and Annual Show, and encouraged to support them. Miles Middleton was confirmed as reporting accountant. Derek Parker suggested buying a lectern for visiting speakers.

Richard Barnes then gave a talk on ‘Imagination in the Garden’.