

HORFIELD AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION LIMITED
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday, 28th February 2005

Held at the Good Shepherd Hall, Kings Drive from 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Mr. Neil Pirie, Chairman,
Ms. Ingrid Morris, Secretary .
Mr. Brian Styles, Treasurer .
And between 50 and 60 members.

NOTICE OF THE MEETING HAD BEEN CIRCULATED IN THE NEWSLETTER TO ALL MEMBERS

APOLOGIES

Mrs. A. Millar (Davis), Mr. R. Probert. (Longs), Mr. R. Crudge (Birchall) Councillor D. Kitson (Bishopston Ward)

WELCOME

Mr. Stephan Clampin, BCC Allotments Manager,
Councillor Bev Knott (Bishopston Ward), Councillor M. Kerry (Horfield Ward).

MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Were distributed to the membership present and adopted on a proposal by Phil Hall and seconded by Ken Smith. There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A report from the Chairman was circulated to the meeting.

The Chairman noted the high occupancy rates achieved in the last year and the increase in women plot holders. He referred to the belief which he has, that the Fields are better managed by the membership, rather than the City Council; and he recalled how the Association had spent £15,000 on fencing after the sale of Oakley Hall, in the erroneous understanding that the City Council would re-imburse. He explained the reason for the Association's opposition to the proposed drainage improvements to Cotham playing field. This opposition being based on the drainage complications that could result, affecting Baptist and Davis Fields. He acknowledged the financial contribution made by the City Council, which has enabled the prudent use of our own funds. He reported the success of the September Show and asked for volunteers to come forward for the organisation of this year's show.

BCC ALLOTMENTS MANAGER

Mr. Steve Clampin reported the successful completion of the last 5 year allotment strategy and that the drawing up of the next 5 year plan is in progress. There has been an investment of over £1 million in the last five years, reflected in the improvement in sites and an increase in lettings. He reported that the H&DAA could expect to receive at least £7000 per year over the next 5 years. Self-management of sites has proved successful in the areas where it operates and is promoted where appropriate.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A summary account and report were distributed to the members present. Full audited accounts are available to members on request.

The treasurer highlighted the excellent value for money that an allotment plot represents and the good fortune of those able to take advantage of this privilege. He acknowledged the contribution from BCC of £8000 in the last year, which had paid for the fencing to Longs Field. The rents collected in 2004/05 will cover the revenue expenses.

Acceptance of Accounts for the year 2003-2004 proposed by Mr. Probert and seconded by Alan Lock was agreed with the following amendment:

It was proposed and agreed that, in the light of the continuing high audit charge, the Association reviews its audit requirements. Proposed by Ms. S. McMurchie, seconded by Mr. Probert.

PRESENTATION OF TED HILL CUP

The Ted Hill Cup, and a £25 garden voucher, for the most improved plot during the first year of tenancy was awarded to Mr. E Wachon, 41 Birchall, (not present). Garden vouchers to a value of £10 were awarded to Mr. M. Simpson (Baptist), Miss H. Todd (Davis), Mr. SJ Draper (Grahams) & Mr. D. Aldridge, Miss L. Vickers & Mr. T. Cooper (Longs), for 'Best newcomer on field' Awards presented by Miss Phyllis Brookes to those winners present.

SEPTEMBER SHOW

Volunteers to form a working group for the Annual Show were asked to contact Ingrid Morris.

ALLOTMENT SURVEY

A summary of the findings of the allotment survey carried out by Ms. Ingrid Morris was circulated to members present.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. JANET ROW

Mrs Janet Row stepped down from the committee last year after years of dedicated service through a period of great change for the Association. The Chairman thanked her for her enormous contribution in establishing self management of the Association as well as in routine administration. She was presented with a print by a local artist.

COMPANY DIRECTORS

In accordance with Company policy one third of the Directors need to be elected each year. The following Directors stood down: Mrs J. Row, Mr M Lane, Mr W Browning, Mrs A Fitzgerald, Mrs. V Chainey, Mr R Chainey. The following were nominated and accepted unopposed: Mr. R Chainey, Mrs. V. Chainey, Ms. S. Rhodes, Mr. M. Cooksey, Ms. I. Morris, Mr. A. Lock. Proposed by Howard Millbank, seconded by Mr. Probert.

AUDITORS

No decision was taken to re-appoint the Auditors

The Chairman thanked all who had helped provide and serve tea.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

There followed a 'Gardeners Question Time' style discussion.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8-45 PM.