

HORFIELD AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION LIMITED
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday, 19th February 2007
Held at the Good Shepherd Hall, Kings Drive from 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Mr.Neil Pirie, Chairman,
Mr. John Molton, 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

Mr. D Probert, Mr Watts, Ms Rossiter, Mr Cooksey, Mr & Mrs Rawlinson-Smith

MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Were distributed to the membership present and adopted on a proposal by Mr Ben Probert and seconded by Ms Paddy Dance.

MATTERS AIRISING

- Mr Ben Probert enquired about the outcome of the audit review with regard to the appointment of auditors. The treasurer reported that Mr K Momber (annual fee £300) would be proposed as auditor.
- Pete Clee reported on the progress of works on the playing field at the top of Golden Hill. The work is now near completion. Water run off appears to have increased with a worsening of flooding in Donkey Lane and Davis Field. Retrospective planning permission for the construction of the mound and the omission of palisade fencing is still pending. There are no plans for the installation of fencing between the playing field and Longs Field.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A report from the Chairman was circulated to the meeting outlining the capital projects achieved in the last year including the improved access, parking area and water provision on Birchall at a total cost of £5,147. The repairs to the Wessex wall are in train and will proceed into the next financial year. In addition significant tree work has been carried out on Baptist Field. The Chairman thanked the whole hardworking Committee, including retiring field reps, Jon Palfrey and Howard Millbank and Secretary Ingrid Morris for their contribution. He welcomed Emma Hedley to the committee as Birchall Field rep and thanked John Molton for stepping into the role of secretary. He highlighted the need for another field rep for Birchall. The Chairman noted the high turnover of plots, (25% per year), which also reflects BCC experience. Despite this the level of cultivation is improving. He also noted the success of the September Show, although the plant sale suffered from bad weather. The Association has now purchased a large tent for social events. The Chairman briefly mentioned the proposed investment in Davis water supply and the possibility of improved pathway/s. Davis tenants will be invited to the next committee meeting to discuss the plans in detail. Working weekends have proved very successful in the last year with much better participation by plot holders. Finally the Chairman appealed for more responsible behaviour with regard to bonfires, the locking of gates and not bringing rubbish on to the fields.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A summary draft account and report were distributed to the members present. Full audited accounts are available to members on request. A slight increase in revenue was accounted for by a small rent rise and an increase in occupancy. The Treasurer highlighted the gap between H&DAA and BCC rents and indicated the importance of the BCC annual grant in enabling the continuation of our low rents. He also ascribed the low rents to the availability of volunteers to carry out the administration of the Association and the maintenance of the sites. The Treasurer pointed out the high and rising cost of water and the importance of water conservation.

The accounts were accepted by the meeting, proposed by Pete Clee, seconded by Rodger Crudge.

It was agreed that K.V. Momber & Co. continue as auditors, proposed by Ben Probert, seconded by Ken Smith.

COMPANY DIRECTORS

In accordance with Company Articles one third of the Directors must be elected each year. The following Directors stood down: H. Millbank, J Palfrey, N Pirie, B Styles, C Styles, K Smith. The Following members were elected unopposed: L Dobbins, E Hedley, N Pirie, B Styles, C Styles K Smith. Proposed by Anne Miller, seconded by Rodger Chainey.

PRESENTATION OF TED HILL CUP & FIELD PRIZES.

The Ted Hill Cup, and a £25 garden voucher, for the most improved plot during the first year of tenancy were presented by Phyllis Brookes to Dr R Gingham & Dr A Davies (St Agnes). 'Best newcomer on field' awards went to Ms F Reid & Mr J Morsorley (Baptist), Mrs A Cadney (Davis), Mr.N Hayward (Longs), Mrs A Jay (Grahams Telecom) and Mr M Wright (Grahams Highbury).

BCC ALLOTMENTS MANAGER

Mr Clampin invited comments on the draft 'Allotments Strategy' document. He raised the possibility of participation in a new scheme allowing GPs to prescribe gardening as a treatment for patients.

Mr Clampin highlighted the increasing participation of Allotments Associations and individual plot holders at the Bristol Flower Show and encouraged our involvement in the show and in the Allotments competition.

ORGANIC ORCHARD

Ms Pauline Markovits reported the registration of the Orchard as a BBC 'Breathing Site' and the possibility of lottery funding under this scheme. Since November the orchard volunteers have cleared and planted areas adjacent to the car park which will be bordered with narrow raised beds. A screened area has been created for the hut and proposed compost toilet (not yet funded). Ms Markovits mentioned the considerable quantity of rubbish that has been removed from the cleared area. Ms Markovits also suggested that people on the waiting list be encouraged to join the Organic Orchard to gain experience of cultivation and the use of the site.

VOTE OF THANKS Mr Ben Probert proposed a vote of thanks to all the members who provided light refreshments.

GENERAL DISCUSSION There followed a 'Gardeners Question Time' style discussion.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8-40 PM.