

**HORFIELD AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION LIMITED
DRAFT MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Monday, 16th February 2009

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

PRESENT

Mr.Neil Pirie, Chairman,
Mr.Brian Styles, Treasurer
Mr John Molton, Secretary.
Mr Steve Clampin BCC Allotments Officer
Councillor Bev Knott

And approximately 50 members.

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

APOLOGIES: Phyllis Brooks, Val Chainey, Roger Chainey, Phil Hall, Anne Miller, Colin Hendy, Laurel Smart, Pauline Markovits, George Lewis, Paddy Dance, Rose Boswell.

MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Were distributed to the membership present and adopted on a proposal by Philip Drew and seconded by Joe McSorley.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising not covered by agenda items.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: A summary of the Chairman's report was circulated to the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed the high turnout of members to the AGM. He highlighted the work of the committee in their capacity as administrators and appealed for more involvement of the membership in the maintenance of the fields. The Chairman thanked BCC for their investment in the fields over the past 6 years and pointed out that this would cease after 2009. He also invited suggestions for capital works for 2009. He urged greater involvement of the membership in working parties and appealed for volunteers to come forward as field reps for Birchall and Davis following the retirement of Jo Madden (Davis) and Emma Carroll (Birchall) both of whom he thanked for their contribution to the Association.

The Chairman's report was followed by a short discussion.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A summary financial report was distributed to the members present. Full audited accounts are available to members on request.

The Treasurer highlighted the contribution of BCC to the apparent health of the Association's balance sheet and pointed out that when this contribution ceases (2009) the revenue from rents will barely cover costs. He praised the work of the committee in minimising the administrative costs of the Association and noted that this contribution allowed rents to be kept at a modest level.

The Treasurer pointed out the high cost of water and urged conservation measures. He stressed the importance of working parties in keeping the cost of maintaining the fields as low as possible.

The accounts were accepted by the meeting, proposed by Dick Probert, seconded by Ben Probert.

It was agreed that K.V. Momber & Co. continue as auditors, proposed by Philip Drew, seconded by Ted Ayers Hunt.

ORGANIC ORCHARD: (Email From Pauline Markovits)

Working meetings proper start next Saturday & we are going to have a go at tidying the car park area & planting some local plum varieties & soft fruit on the bank at the back.

We have put up a notice asking for a tarpaulin or plastic sheet to be spread in the car park if manure etc is dumped there.

We have also got some soft fruit bushes for sale (josta berries, red Pax gooseberries etc) for sale then 2-4 pm & penultimate Saturdays.

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 Margaret Smith to Jay Gowin & Suzanne Cottle of 8b & 9b Longs 'Best newcomer on field' awards went to Andrea Skeen, 7 Baptist, Colin Hendy & Lauren Smart 39 Birchall, Kay Crowe 20a Davis & Bill Ball 25 St Agnes.

COMPANY DIRECTORS

In accordance with Company Articles one third of the Directors must retire each year. The following Directors stood down: Phil Hall, Alan Lock, Emma Carroll (nee Hedley), Jo Madden and John Molten The following members were appointed *nem con*: Phil Hall, Alan Lock, John Molton & Sally Newberry. Proposed: Ken Smith, Seconded: Philip Drew.

BCC ALLOTMENTS MANAGER:

Mr Steve Clampin gave a brief and informative update on current BCC policies and forthcoming events.

The Bristol Flower Show will not be taking place this year but the Allotments Office will continue its promotional work through stalls at suitable venues including the Organic Festival on Harbour Side and possibly the farmers market. The involvement of volunteers would be appreciated. The Allotments Office will be exploring the possibility of reopening disused allotments sites around the city and will also explore ways of promoting the growing of food crops in domestic gardens. Mr Clampin confirmed the cessation of the current round of BCC funding but expressed a commitment to ongoing investment should funds become available in the future. In the meantime self managing Associations are responsible for all maintenance costs to their sites. Mr Clampin outlined the BCC policies regarding shed security and procedures in respect of neglected plots. He also announced that the rent for a large plot on a BCC site will rise by £20.00 over the next 2 years bringing the annual rent to £60.00 in 2 years time, (this does not apply to H&DAA).

The chairman thanked those who provided and served 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.