

HORFIELD & DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Company number 4672027

Secretary: John Molton, 11 Queens Drive, Bristol, BS7 8JR

The Association is registered with the DATA PROTECTION AGENCY

(DRAFT) Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Monday 15th February 2010

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

Present:

Pete Clee, Chair

Brian Styles, Treasurer

John Molton, Secretary

Steve Clampin, Bristol City Council Allotments Officer

Councillor Cheryl Ann

Councillor?

And approximately 80 members

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

1. Apologies:

Neil Pirie, Phil Hall, Rose Boswell

2. Minutes of the 2009 AGM were distributed to all present and were accepted on a proposal by Ted Ayers-Hunt, seconded by Ken Smith.

3. Matters arising: There were no matters arising not covered by agenda items.

4. Chairman's Report: Written by Neil Pirie and read in his absence by Pete Clee. Copies were circulated at the meeting. New field reps. Ken McNeil (Davis) and Ted Ayers-Hunt (Birchall) were introduced and members were encouraged to use their reps. He raised the increasingly diverse features that plot holders are seeking to add to their plots – beehives, chickens and polytunnels – and the criteria the Committee uses to decide on whether to allow them. He gave an overview of maintenance work that the Association has had done over the past year and that which has yet to be done - and urged members not to bring rubbish onto the field or to dump rubbish from their plots on communal areas. He put to the members that we need to retain a healthy bank balance even though the money we have received from BCC for the last 5 years will cease in March. Our rents are some £20 lower than BCC, partly because all our administration is done voluntarily; The Committee's view is that a resolution should be put to next year's AGM proposing a system of regular rent increases from 2012 – to ensure that the works required do not simply eat into the reserves.

There was discussion of issues raised. Steve Clampin said that BCC limits size of poly tunnels to 10 by 20 feet max. and requires written requests to have them and reserves right to refuse – though does not charge for extra water.

5. Annual accounts and Treasurer's report: A summary financial report was distributed to members present. Full audited accounts are available to members on request.

Brian Styles made the following points:

- Maintenance work and expenses use up 100% of the rent money. As the sites are virtually full this can only increase if rents rise.
- The £7,000 a year from BCC will cease this year. There are plans to spend what remains of this year's money.
- The Association has a healthy bank balance (from the sale of property in Oak Road) but this now earns low interest and we will need to draw on it for essential works in future.

The accounts were accepted on a proposal from Dick Probert, seconded by Joe McSorley.

The auditor is to be re-appointed on a proposal from Ken Smith, seconded by Phillip Drew.

The Treasurer said that Bristol City Council's rents are up to £63 while ours are £33. He suggested that at next years AGM we agree a formula increase both to raise money and to

prevent further disparity with the Council. There was some discussion of this. It was agreed that a schedule of planned works be provided at the next AGM.

6. The Resolution : The AGM was asked to approve the Committee's recommendation that the third sentence of Clause 5 of the tenancy agreement be amended to read – "properly cultivated in this context will normally require at least two thirds to be under cultivation and the remainder to be kept weed free".

The resolution was proposed by John Molton, seconded by Ken McNiel and was passed almost unanimously.

7. Election of HDAA directors: The articles of the Company require that one third of the directors stand down each year. This year those standing down are Neil Pirie, Sarah Rhodes, Ken Smith, Brian Styles and Christine Styles. All five have indicated that they would be willing to stand for re-election. All were duly re-elected.

8. Presentation of Ted Hill Cup, Phyllis Brooks Award and Best New Plot Awards:

Christine Styles introduced Phyllis Brooks who awarded the prizes. Phyllis retired from the Committee this year after many years of wonderful work. She said that Phyllis was someone who had contributed enormously to the Allotment movement and that without her HDAA would not be the lively, healthy organization it is currently. A new Award in her honour, an engraved cup, for a tenant who has made a major contribution to the Association, was awarded to Richard Brandford for work on Birchall field. The Ted Hill cup was awarded to Marjorie McCartney 16 Baptist. Best newcomer awards were as follows: Davis 8 Mr. and Mrs. Page; St. Agnes 38 Simon Bennett; Longs 35a Roy Haddow; Wessex 11 David and Penelope Moynihan; Birchall 31 Sue and Paul Thomas.

9. Discussion: Steve Clampin from BCC gave a brief and interesting talk making the following points:

- Rents need to be realistic – even with higher rents and cultivation expenses of approx. £150 a year plots are still viable – producing up to £800 worth of crops.
- BCC has a new allotment strategy. There may be more money available in future.
- Demand for plots is high. To manage this most are divided and cultivation rules are enforced. Demand from community groups is encouraged. Policy is to be introduced preventing people from having more than one plot.
- The allotments survey last year found that 50% of tenants walk to their plots, 95% visit their plots in summer and 68% visit in winter.
- He is considering introducing small starter plots, perhaps in the form of a raised bed, for beginners.
- The Flower Show will not return to the Downs though other venues – for example Ashton Court – are being considered.
- BCC has the Horfield Shield

10:A.O.B.: There was interest in a suggestion from Marjory McCartney in selling surplus produce at Corn Street market. She is producing a recipe book and asked for contribution to be sent to her or Christine Styles. The Committee will consider a market stall. Christine Styles will put a notice on the field boards about Tinker and Bloom. Tim Ruck informed members that his father is taking photographs of plots for an exhibition.

Finally Pete Clee introduced Claire Hansen Khan who spoke about a wonderful scheme she is developing. It is a forest garden project, using land on St. Agnes field which is unusable for plots. It will be for community groups and will be accessible for people with disabilities. She brought plans which she asked members to comment on. Steve Clampin offered BCC support for this project (though not financially).

The Chairman thanked Fiona and Joe who served refreshments before the meeting.
The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9.20pm.