

HORFIELD & DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Company number 4672027

Secretary: Marjorie McCartney

The Association is registered with the DATA PROTECTION AGENCY

(DRAFT) Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Monday 14th February 2011

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

Present:

Neil Pirie, Chair

Committee members: Brian Styles, Marjorie McCartney, Sarah Rhodes, Pete Clee, Ken McNeil, Ted Ayers-Hunt, Sally Newberry, Joe McSorley, Fiona Reid, Alan Locke, Christine Styles, Roger Chainey
Steve Clampin, Bristol City Council Allotments Officer

Councillor Glenise Morgan, Henleaze ward

And approximately 60 members

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

Before the meeting started there was a film show by Peter Ruck and John Case who had been photographing the Golden Hill allotments over the last year. They were from the N.W. Bristol Camera Club which meets at Somerville, Greystoke Avenue on Wednesday evenings

1. Apologies:

Mike Cooksey, Phil Hall, Val Chainey, Anne Miller, Vicky Waite, James Holbrook, Phyllis Brooks

2. Minutes of the 2010 AGM were distributed to all present and were accepted on a proposal by Ken Smith seconded by Ted Ayers-Hunt

3. Matters arising: It has not been possible to produce a schedule of planned works. The forest garden bid has been submitted to the National Lottery Fund and a decision is awaited.

4. Chairman's Report: Written and read by Neil Pirie. Copies were circulated at the meeting.

- He urged tenants to contact their field reps with any issues and also to befriend new tenants. There is still a very long waiting list for plots.
- All need to be aware of site security and not leave gates open etc. especially since we have spent much money over the last few years on making the sites secure.
- The summer show was successful as a social event (especially the cakes) but we would like more competition entries. It was agreed that a new cup given to HDAA by Steve Clampin, be awarded as a prize at the show this year. The date of the 2011 show will be in the May newsletter.
- There is now an allotment blog started by Marjorie McCartney.
- He praised the Committee as being good to work with and thanked all for the work they do.

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:

- He thanked members for prompt payment of rents and for the voluntary donation of an extra £10 for water from most of those with poly tunnels. Total rent income is approx. £10,000
- Our main expenditure is on water and estate maintenance. Most of the maintenance has been funded by money from Bristol City Council which has now stopped so in future our funds will be needed for this.
- The Association is basically solvent but we will need to work harder to minimise water bills by saving and capturing water and using it carefully.
- The meeting agreed to receive the accounts on a proposal by Dick Probert seconded by Phillip Drew.

No objections were raised to re-appointing the auditor.

6. Resolution: The Committee proposes that plot rents increase by 5% per annum for the period 2012-2016. The rate per perch will be rounded to the nearest 10p to yield the following charges over the five years: £3.50, £3.60, £3.80, £4.00 and £4.20. The policy will be reviewed in 2015.

Brian Styles, Treasurer, explained it thus: HDAA's expenditure will exceed income unless we raise rents. It would be dangerous to use savings to subsidise rents as the money would soon run out and a large rent increase would be needed, and we would be unable to fund any major expenditure that became necessary. Rent should at least fund necessary maintenance as it would on the basis of this modest proposal – although it would not fund the £7,000 of annual spending we have had recently.

A brief discussion followed where only one objection was raised and the majority feeling expressed was that the allotments are good value and the increase was modest. The suggestion was made that assistance could be offered to anyone affected by hardship and also that there may be some who would like to pay more voluntarily.

Neil Pirie suggested a review next year based on the needs and spending over the year. He said that making the sites secure has been a big expense in the past but in future main costs will probably be on hauling way and water repairs.

The Resolution was accepted on a proposal by Kay Crow, seconded by Marjorie McCartney. There was one objection.

7. Election of HDAA Company Directors: The articles of the Company require that one third of the directors stand down each year. This year those standing down are Pete Clee, Mike Cooksey, Joe McSorley, and Fiona Reid. All were willing to stand again. There are three new directors, Ken McNeil, Marjorie McCartney and Ted Ayers-Hunt. Bill Ball the new field rep. for St. Agnes was nominated.

8. Presentation of prizes: Steve Clampin awarded the prizes as follows:

Ted Hill cup (for plot holder making the most progress in the 1st year of tenancy) to Julie Nuckey, 49b Birchall
Phyllis Brooks cup (for benefit to the HDAA) jointly to Ken Smith and John Molton, retiring Committee members who have done a huge amount of voluntary work for the Association over many years.

Field prizes (new tenants who have made good progress)

Baptist – Roy and Rosaleen Marshall

Birchall – Paul and Mary Newman

Grahams – Ruth Revel

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

- He spoke of changes in recent years in Council allotments where rents have doubled and plot sizes halved
 - He was pleased to see that HDAA is thriving and has a good relationship with BCC. Although funds not available BCC will support in any way it can.
 - There is a welcome growth in community groups on sites and communal activities such as our annual show.
 - Problems such as theft and rubbish dumping persist, but less than in the past.
 - The Council made an allotment bed in Castle Park in 2010 which was very successful and not vandalized. Plans more this year – possibly one on Castle Green. Suggestions invited for bits of land where vegetables could be grown – proximity to busy roads would not be a problem now petrol is unleaded.
 - The Garden Life Show will take place in Cabot Circus on April 15th, 16th and 17th. Free stands are available for Associations or individuals, but contact him ASAP.
- There followed a short discussion where members raised issues including protecting crops from pigeons, rubbish tipping, seed collecting and swapping.

The Chair thanked Joe McSorley, Fiona Reid and Sally Newberry for serving the refreshments and he closed the meeting at 9pm.