

**DRAFT**  
**HORFIELD & DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

Company number 4672027

Secretary: Marjorie McCartney

The Association is registered with the DATA PROTECTION AGENCY

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**  
**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013**  
**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, Ted Ayers-Hunt, Joe McSorley, Fiona Reid, Christine Styles, Roger Chainey, Sally Newberry, Bill Ball, Alan Locke, Steve Soffe, Roger Hake, Ken McNeil

Steve Clampin, Bristol City Council Allotments Officer

And approximately ? members.

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

Tea and coffee before the meeting started were provided by Sally Newberry and Fiona Reid

**1. Apologies:**

Phil Hall, Anne Miller, John Molton, Mike Cooksey

**2. Minutes of the 2012 AGM** were distributed to all present and were accepted on a proposal by Ted Ayers-Hunt seconded by Brian Styles

**3. Matters arising:** There has been no decision yet on a use for the Amy Gadbury Cup – NP asked for suggestions

**4. Report from the Chairman on behalf of the Executive Committee:** Written and read by Neil Pirie. Copies were circulated at the meeting.

- He asked for members' views on the Summer Show – should it continue or merge with the Community Garden event? Is the timing OK? Would people mind paying for tea and cakes? Should it be a different sort of event like, for example, BCC's Get Growing Trail?
- He said our W/L is down – also happening on allotments elsewhere
- Reminded all about the HDAA website managed by MMc and viewed by 1000's.
- Mentioned the working parties which have recently transformed the Donkey Lane area by doing work on the hedge.
- Asked members to report anyone they see dumping rubbish on fields to the reps.
- Asked members to take care with the padlocks as we cannot get more. Please report any problems to field reps.
- He thanked field reps and other volunteers involved with HDAA.

## **5. Proposal to adjust the Memorandum and Articles of the Association with a view to applying for Charitable Status**

Special Resolutions were previously circulated to members with the Agenda:

- (1) That new articles of association of the company be adopted reflecting the change introduced by virtue of section 28 of the Companies Act that the provisions of the memorandum of association have since 1 October 2009 been treated as if they formed part of the articles of the association by including the appropriate provisions of the memorandum in the articles and renumbering the provisions of the articles accordingly.
- (2) That the regulations set forth in the printed document attached to this resolution, and for the purpose of identification signed by the chairman of this meeting, are hereby approved and adopted in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, all the existing articles thereof.

NP explained the reasons behind the application – as a charity HDAA would pay no tax on interest (saving of about £400 annually currently), and would be able to apply for funding. There was some discussion of the costs of charitable status **and some changes were made to the details of the articles.**

The resolutions were put to a vote and there were no objections to the application for charitable status **and the new articles were approved nem con with minor amendments**

NP will approach the Charity Commission first to make the application and will then re-circulate the articles **which can be adopted by written resolution without requiring a meeting.**

**6. 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:

- Water is a major and increasing expense. He asked members to use water carefully – to read articles on effective watering and water only when appropriate, and to collect rainwater.
- A large proportion of the maintenance spending is on tree work. He asked members not to bring trees onto site
- There are costs involved in removing rubbish – he asked members not to bring rubbish onto their plots.
- He asked people to pay rent on time. There will be a small increase next year as agreed in last year's AGM, **but no new increases are proposed this year**
- The position is healthy overall – HDAA is solvent because the work is done by volunteers.
- The meeting agreed to accept the accounts on a proposal by Dick Probert seconded by Joe McSorley
- A vote of thanks was made to the Treasurer, Brian Styles

## **7. Appointment of Auditors**

The meeting agreed to the re-appointment of the auditor (K. Mombar and Co.)

## **8. Election of H&DAA Company Directors**

The following Directors are standing down: Ken McNeil, Marjorie McCartney, Ted Ayers-Hunt, Christine Styles, Val Chainey, Mike Cooksey.

Val and Mike who are not standing again were thanked for long service.

The meeting agreed to the re-election of the other four who are willing to stand again *plus* Anne Miller who is standing as a new Director

#### **9. Community Garden Report:**

A printed summary was circulated at the meeting. Lucy Mitchell gave an enthusiastic and interesting description of progress over the year. The project has won 2 awards including Bristol Green Volunteers project of the year. The heart of the project is the Wednesday open day to which about 15 come every week. The work with groups is expanding and more raised beds are built. A stall is planned to sell surplus fruit and veg. The Spring Fair will be May 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### **9. BCC Allotments Officer: Steve Clampin**

- His department has suffered budget cuts –soon it will be funded only by allotment rents.
- Applications for plots are down and tenants are leaving – bad weather is the probable cause
- He mentioned 2 events this year – the Get Growing Trail and the Bee Pollination event at Bristol Zoo.
- In answer to a question from the floor he said that BCC has no plans to sell off cultivated allotment sites

#### **10. Presentation of prizes:** Prizes were awarded by Phyllis Brooks as follows:

Ted Hill cup (for plot holder making the most progress in the 1<sup>st</sup> year of tenancy January 2011-2012) to Jackie and Liz Williams 51a St. Agnes

Field prizes (new tenants who have made good progress)

Chris Evans 35a Baptist

Mr. & Mrs. Morse 26 Birchall

Mr. & Mrs. Wilson 25 Grahams

Mr. & Mrs. Turnbull 3a Longs

Phyllis Brooks cup (for benefit to the HDAA) to Pete Clee for the enormous amount of work he does all over the site and especially, recently, on the Community Garden

#### **9. Discussion:** The chairman Neil Pirie thanked Phyllis Brooks and introduced an open forum.

Sharon ? coordinator of the Community Orchard, spoke about the celebrations planned this year for the Orchard's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Bev Knott, local councilor spoke in praise of allotments. Pete Clee described the solar pump scheme which is being developed on Golden Hill.

The chair closed the meeting at 9pm.