

**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 10th February 2014**  
**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, Fiona Reid, Christine Styles, Roger Chainey, Sally Newberry, Bill Ball, Steve Soffe, Ken McNeil, Anne Miller, Phil Hall.

Steve Clampin, Bristol City Council Allotments Officer, Danielle Radice local Green Party councillor and Lucy Mitchell Community Garden project worker.

And approximately 70 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 and Anne Miller

**1. Apologies:**

Paul Miller

**2. Minutes of the 2013 AGM** were distributed to all present and were accepted on a proposal by Dick Probert seconded by Marjorie McCartney.

**3. Matters arising:** None

**4. Report from the Chairman on behalf of the Executive Committee:** Written and read by Neil Pirie.

- He expressed great sadness at the deaths of four long term and much loved committee members in the last year – John Molton, Ken Smith, Val Chainey and Alan Lock.
- He thanked field reps and other volunteers involved with HDAA, who like those four people above, give their time for the benefit of the community.
- He described the solar pump now functioning on Golden Hill which will reduce water costs.
- He thanked the working parties and especially Roger Hake for the hedging work on Golden Hill which has transformed the Donkey Lane boundary.
- He informed members that HDAA's charity application is now awaiting a decision from the Charity Commission.
- He mentioned Good Earth Gardening the book published recently by plot holder Tim Foster.
- Finally he thanked those who had provided refreshments at the meeting.

**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:

- Rents total is down slightly as there are plots which are vacant due to neglect. This has meant that they could not be re-let immediately. He asked members wishing to give up to do so before their plots get too bad.
- There is still high occupancy and waiting lists on all sites.
- HDAA rents are about half those charged by Bristol CC although direct comparison is difficult as the plots are measured differently.
- He urged members to use water effectively, collect it and not waste it.
- He asked members not to bring trees onto plots other than fruit trees on dwarf rootstock and not to bring rubble onto site as it can be dangerous, and difficult and expensive to remove.
- In response to a question he said that about 9% of HDAA income is from hut rents.
- He thanked the auditor for providing a very reasonably priced service.
- The meeting accepted the accounts on a proposal from Sally Newberry, seconded by Ken McNeil
- The meeting agreed to the re-appointment of the auditor (K. Mombar and Co.) on a proposal from Anne Miller, seconded by Ted Ayers-Hunt

## **6. Resolutions**

A resolution was proposed by Nina Linton, seconded by Vicky Meadows thus: Rent for an Association owned hut will be collected from a tenant for a maximum of 12 years. After that no further rent is payable by that tenant.

Brian Styles spoke on behalf of the Committee to oppose the resolution for which there was little support from members. A vote was taken with Steve Clampin acting as teller. 5 people were in favour and the resolution was lost by a large majority. The second resolution was therefore not put to members.

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

The following Directors are standing down: Fiona Reid, Joe McSorley, Roger Chainey, and Pete Clee

The meeting agreed to the re-election of the four who are willing to stand again and Anne Miller who is standing as a new Director (her application delayed from last year)

## **8. Community Garden Report:**

Lucy Mitchell gave an enthusiastic and interesting description of progress over the year. There is now a frog shaped pizza oven on site. The CG has exceeded its' targets with over 2000 attendances. It is used by over 30 community groups and has more than 350 volunteers.

- Lottery funding ends in March the CG will become independent from HDAA. It will need £7000 a year to continue to employ a worker for 1 day a week and there are lots of plans for financial sustainability. These include:
- A toddler group
- Hiring out the eco build cob shelter (due to be built this Spring)

- Workshops
- Funding applications
- Children's adventure days
- A "Friends of the CG" scheme aiming for £2000 pa.
- Selling produce and organic compost
- Bulk buying and selling of imperishables

She asked if any members would be plant fosterers, and also asked that people refrain from dumping old carpet on site. She reminded all that the CG Spring Fair is May 10<sup>th</sup> and finally thanked members for support.

Neil Pirie thanked Lucy and asked for active people to join the CG committee. He also asked for suggestions for publicizing the Friends scheme.

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

- His department is now self funding.
- There is some money from allotment sales which Associations can apply for capital works
- He praised the self management of HDAA but warned that it works only because members want it. He is concerned that where self management is forced as a money saving measure it may not work.
- He had been greatly impressed by the CG when he visited recently with Steven Williams MP.
- He claimed that BCC evicts quickly from neglected plots and re-lets quickly with a 50% rent reduction for 2 years if plots are very overgrown. He advised HDAA to do the same as he believed that there were 50 vacant plots on Golden Hill. This is not the case and Christine Styles will provide him with accurate vacancy figures from the records.

**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 2012-2013) to David Lodge 1a and 14 Birchall field

Field prizes (new tenants who have made good progress):

Ruttley and Palmer 19 Davis field

Phyllis Brooks cup (for benefit to the HDAA) to Roger Hake for leading the working parties which have transformed hedges on Golden Hill and other work he has done on Birchall field

**11. AOB:** The chairman Neil Pirie thanked Phyllis Brooks and introduced an open forum. In response to a question about hauling ways in bad condition, he said that repairs are due this year. They will be expensive but we will apply for the council money. There is also a need for hedging to be laid between St Agnes and Davis fields on Golden Hill.

Neil thanked Brian and Christine Styles for all the work they do for HDAA.

The chair closed the meeting at 8:40 pm.