

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 9th February 2015
Held at the Good Shepherd Hall, Kings Drive from 7.30pm

Present:

Neil Pirie, Chair

Committee members: Brian Styles, Marjorie McCartney, Pete Clee, Ted Ayers-Hunt, Fiona Reid, Joe McSorley Christine Styles, Sally Newberry, Steve Soffe, Ken McNeil, Anne Miller, Phil Hall, Jamie Dark, Roger Hake, Mitch Crossingham. Steve Clampin & Janet Hathway Bristol City Council Allotments Office, Lucy Mitchell, Community Garden project worker. Glenis Morgan, Councilor Henleaze, Lib Dem: Tim Malnick Councilor Bishopston, Green Party
And approximately 50 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, Fiona Reid, Marjorie McCartney and Anne Miller

1. Apologies: Paul Miller, Sarah Rhodes, Mr & Mrs Farthing, Mr J Harris, Bill Ball, Roger Chainey.

2. Minutes of the 2014 AGM were distributed to all present and were accepted on a proposal by Ted Ayers-Hunt seconded by Dick Probert

3. Matters arising: Mr Steve Clampin expressed apologies for his error regarding the 2012/13 occupancy figures.

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

- He thanked the hedge team for their work on the Davis/Baptist/Donkey Lane hedge which has been laid and the gaps filled with new saplings. A donation of saplings from the Woodland Trust is due to arrive in the spring.
- The solar powered water pump has saved the Association over £600. He thanked Pete for his work on this project.
- The solar panels are now connected to batteries which will power the Eco House, which is available to hire for community groups.
- The Community Orchard continues to thrive
- Capital works this year included: Tree work on Golden Hill & Birchall; hauling way renewal on Golden Hill; installation of hard standing & repairs to the BT wall on Wessex; filling of pot holes on Donkey Lane (although this is not the responsibility of the Association).
- The policy regarding neglected plots is working well due to the vigilance of field reps & Marjorie (Secretary) in identification & follow up.
- Demand for plots has declined nationally but we still have waiting lists.
- Charitable status will be re-applied for in 2015.
- He thanked the members for compliance with the limitation on the use of petrol strimmers.
- New raised beds are being installed adjacent to the Monk Rd car park, by Pete and volunteers. These will be for use by new & retiring plot holders.
- He thanked the directors & field reps for their work.

5. Bee-Keeping ; presentation

Rob Sanders gave an entertaining & informative presentation on the joys and benefits of bee-keeping.

6. Facebook proposal:

Paddy Uglow made a concise case for the setting up of an H&DAA facebook page. Mitch Crossingham offered to co-moderate the page which would be for H&DAA members only. The suggestion was favourably received & it was agreed that a subcommittee would bring a proposal to the next General Committee meeting.

7. Annual Accounts and Treasurer's Report

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

The treasurer reported that the accounts for 2013/14 were complicated by the incorporation of the income and expenditure associated with the Community Garden Project. The financial impact of the project on the Association was neutral because its expenditure in 2013/4 was fully met by grant income from the 'Big Food Project'. From 2014/15 the Project will be a separate financial entity and will therefore no longer be incorporated into the Associations accounts. The decision by the directors to increase the rate of depreciation charged for the assets acquired more than ten years ago produces an accounting loss of £3850 for the year. This technical change does not reduce the Associations positive cash flow for the year.

When these technical issues are eliminated the income and expenditure figures are £11,103 and £8,866 respectively. Once bank interest & the associated tax charges are included it produces a surplus of £2,665. Apart from the water rates, the various elements of expenditure were in line with previous years. The reduction in water charges was entirely due to the water pumping scheme on Golden Hill which has meant that a significant part of the site is largely self sufficient. The treasurer underlined that the ability to keep the rents considerably below those charged by the City Council was entirely due to the administration and physical work carried out by volunteers.

The meeting adopted the accounts: for the year ended 30th Sept 2014.

The meeting reappointed Stone & Co as accountants; Proposed: Pete Clee; Seconded: Anne Miller

8. Resolutions;

The Committee proposed that the rents should be increased by 20p per perch in each of the next five years (2016-2020). This increase would allow the Association to maintain and improve the sites while still maintaining rents below those charged by the City Council.

The resolution was overwhelmingly accepted by the meeting.

9. Election of H&DAA Company Directors

The following Directors are standing down: Sally Newberry, Phil Hall, Brian Styles, Sarah Rhodes, Neil Pirie

The meeting agreed to the re-election of the five who are willing to stand again

10. Community Garden Report:

Lucy Mitchell reported on the progress, achievements and future goals of the Garden following their move to independence from H&DAA last March.

- Events have continued to be well supported and attract impressive attendance.
- The straw built Eco House is nearly complete and available to groups for hire.
- The Garden has benefited from the input of about 450 volunteers, with a regular Wednesday attendance of 20 – 40 volunteers.
- For children the garden runs Golden Fun Adventure days and accommodates the Golden Buds Toddler Group. The site is also used by Bishop Rd School and Ashley Down Primary as well as local nurseries. The pond area is available to school groups at £2-3 per head.
- Raised beds are available for groups to hire for £55 per year and are currently being used by Beanstalks Nursery, Bishop Rd Primary School, Silvacare (Residential housing for adults with learning difficulties), Bishopston Beavers, a local childminding group, Second Step mental health charity and Willow Day care centre for adults with dementia.
- Fund raising in the last year yielded £750 from plant sales, £2000 from events & £500 from compost sales. The 'Friends of the Garden' monthly donation by standing order scheme now has 34 contributors.
- Sponsorship has been received from: the John James Foundation, Quartet, the lottery Awards for All scheme, Gloucester Rd W1, Bishopston Garden Society and Waitrose Henleaze.
- Events throughout the year are advertised on the web site – the next big event will be the Spring Fayre on May 9th.
- Lucy thanked all who had contributed to the success of the Garden including those who anonymously donate plants – they never have too many beans!
- In the coming year they intend to work with more adults with learning difficulties and are looking into starting an afterschool club and to host children's parties.

11. BCC Allotments Officer:

Steve Clampin reported that in response to the reduction in complement in the Allotments Office responsibility for technical aspects of site management would be allocated to the remaining staff (Steve Clampin & Janet Hathway) on a geographical basis. Janet will be our BCC contact. Steve will continue to deal with capital investment and is addressing the question of retrospective funding for last year.

12. Presentation of prizes: Prizes were awarded by Phyllis Brooks as follows:

Ted Hill cup (for plot holder making the most progress in the 1st year of tenancy January 2012-2013) to Kate Castle 29 St. Agnes,

Field prizes (new tenants who have made good progress): Mr & Mrs Farthing 12a Baptist, Ms. Martin 13a Grahams, Mr Harris 9 Longs, Mr Cox 33 St. Agnes.

The Phyllis Brooks award for outstanding service to the Association: Jo Madden, previously of 6a Davis.

13. AOB: The chairman Neil Pirie thanked Phyllis Brooks and all present.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:20 pm.