

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 8th February 2016
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, Joe McSorley, Sally Newberry, Steve Soffe, Ken McNeil, Anne Miller, Roger Hake, Sarah Rhodes, Roger Chainey

Steve Clampin Bristol City Council Allotments Office, Glynise Morgan, Councillor, Henleaze, Olly Mead, Councillor, Lockleaze and Horfield

And approximately 30 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, Marjorie McCartney

1. Apologies: Paul Miller, Katharine Alsop

2. Minutes of the 2015 AGM were distributed to all present and were accepted on a proposal by Ted Ayers-Hunt seconded by Joe McSorley. There was a correction to the list of Community Garden sponsors – Gloucester Road W1 should have read Gloucester Road W1.

3. Matters arising: None

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

- He thanked Steve Clampin for the money which HDAA has received from Bristol City Council.
- He described the location of HDAA's fields – Golden Hill, Birchall and Wessex – and said that the Committee is responsible for the management of all of them.
- There are over 400 plots and last year 46 were relet – a turnover of about 10%. Demand is down from 10 years ago but still exceeds supply.
- We aim to manage neglect in a considerate way – we offer options to plot holders and try to avoid evictions.
- He informed members that there is a pile of woodchip on Golden Hill to which they can help themselves
- He thanked Roger Hake and his working parties for the continuing hedging work which has greatly improved Golden Hill
- The wooden decking on St Agnes field has been made safe when wet by the addition of non-slip strips.

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.

The Treasurer Brian Styles thanked members for paying rents promptly. He has been asked if rents could be paid by direct transfer of money. He has had to refuse because this would greatly increase his work.

He said that HDAA could only keep rents lower than the Council because of the work done by volunteers.

For example:

- The water bill fell from £2000 in 2012 to £900 last year because of the Tower of Power (solar pump) which is dependent on the ministrations of Pete Clee to maintain it.
- The 500 year old hedge on the Donkey Lane boundary has been reinstated by Roger Hake and his working parties which is good for wild life, looks wonderful and would be unaffordable if we had to pay for it.
- All the administration and collection of rents is done by volunteers – work which the Council has to pay for.

The Treasurer went on to further describe the accounts. HDAA is financially healthy. Income and expenditure are roughly in balance. He asked for questions but none were asked.

The meeting adopted the accounts for the year ending 30th September 2015 On a proposal by Pete Clee seconded by Anne Miller

The meeting reappointed Stone and Co as auditors on a proposal by Joe McSorley seconded by Fiona Reid

6. Election of H&DAA Company Directors

The following Directors are standing down: Ken McNeil, Marjorie McCartney, Ted Ayers-Hunt and Christine Styles

The meeting agreed to the re-election of the four who are willing to stand again on a proposal by Joe McSorley seconded by Roger Chainey. Fiona Reid is standing down and resigning. The Chair thanked her for many years of service as a Director.

7. Community Garden Report:

The report was given by Pete Clee as Lucy Mitchell was unable to attend

- The Garden won the RHS best community garden in the South West and was nominated for the Bristol Green award.
- The shows and bonfire events have been terrific and successful
- The Garden had its' 4th birthday this week and has been independent for a year.
- The Garden's aim was to facilitate involvement. There has been a continued increase in the number of people in the targeted groups attending. The project is very sociable and welcomes wheelchair users and people with severe learning difficulties.
- There are now 2 fully booked toddler clubs and an after school club is due to start
- The Bale House has started taking bookings
- The Garden is close to self-sufficiency but needs another £2000 a year to be comfortable

8. BCC Allotments Officer:

Steve Clampin made the following points:

- The popularity of allotments is strong but waiting lists vary across sites.
- HDAA is part of a network of allotment associations across the city
- The Community Garden is important for those needing support but still able to benefit from gardening. He applauded it.
- Bristol will not have £7000 again to give Associations but they can apply for money for capital projects in these categories:

Health and safety

Accessibility

Improved letting

New sites

Improved water supply

Location – i.e. money from sale of allotment land

- Turnover varies between 10-15%. Plots are offered quickly when vacant and discounts are offered on overgrown plots. Volunteer site reps have good relationships with Council officers. Site reps have rent free plots.
- Self-management by volunteers is the way forward for allotments.

In discussion after Steve Clampin's talk Councillor Read suggested that the Wessex fields in Horfield, would be eligible to apply for Neighbourhood Partnership funding

9. Presentation of prizes: The Chair introduced Phyllis Brooks who presented the prizes. Prizes were awarded as follows:

Ted Hill cup (for plot holder making the most progress in the 1st year of tenancy January 2013-2014) was awarded to Mr and Mrs Newby 14 Davis. Mr Newby accepted the cup and thanked his neighbours for all their help.

Field prizes (new tenants who have made good progress): Kirsten Whimster, 8a Birchall and Jane Beresford-Huey and Marie Beresford-Huey, 24b Longs.

The Phyllis Brooks award for outstanding service to the Association was awarded to Richard Wardle for his great kindness in caring for the 2 plots of his neighbour who has been seriously ill.

10. Discussion/Questions: A member asked about the facebook page ???

A member requested site maps. Steve Clampin offered to amend those BCC has and send to Marjorie McCartney HDAA Secretary.

Glynise Morgan, Henleaze Councillor asked if anyone present would like to work with the Eastfield Inn (recently under new management) in developing a garden for elderly people

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

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.