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HORFIELD & DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Company number 4672027

Secretary: Sarah Rhodes

The Association is registered with the DATA PROTECTION AGENCY

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Monday 12th February 2018
Held at the Good Shepherd Hall, Kings Drive from 7.45 pm**

Present:

Neil Pirie, Chair

Committee members: Brian Styles, Pete Clee, Ted Ayers-Hunt, Joe McSorley, Steve Soffe, Roger Hake, Sarah Rhodes, Chris Styles, Katharine Alsop, Kirstin Whimster, Roger Chainey, Councillor Eleanor Combe and approx. 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 Chris Styles, Brian Styles and Fiona Reid

1. Apologies: Phil Hall, Phillip Drew, Tim Mahy, Jane Marie Mahy, Cllr Olly Mead, Cllr Fi Hance, Cllr Tom Brook

2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM were distributed to all present and were accepted on a proposal by Ted Ayers-Hunt seconded by Dick Probert.

3. Matters arising: None

4. Report from the Chairman on behalf of the Executive Committee: Written and read by Neil Pirie. A copy was circulated to all present.

- He described the HDAA fields
- He said farewell and gave heartfelt thanks to people leaving the Committee – Brian and Christine Styles, Treasurer and plot manager, Ted Ayers-Hunt Birchall field rep, Sarah and Matt Griffiths, Longs field reps, Marjorie McCartney, Secretary. We have found new volunteers for the Treasurer and Secretary but field reps are needed for Longs, Baptist, St Agnes and Birchall
- HDAA now has a Bee Policy. He thanked Katharine Alsop for the work she has done on this.
- BCC has recently held a consultation on Parks policy. We do not yet know if there are any implications for allotments.
- HDAA is in the process of renegotiating its' lease with BCC. We will be paying £800 for a 25 year lease.
- There are issues with the management of trees- tree surgery is expensive. Should there be trees on the allotments? Should all fruit trees be dwarf?
- The demand for plots is declining nationally.

Mr. Probert asked who decides if a plot is "dirty"? Neil explained the neglect policy.

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 presented the accounts. HDAA's rents are about 50-60% of BCC's. Our water bill is up on last year because the solar was broken down. This is now remedied. Estate management expenses vary from year to year depending on needs. Most of the work is done by volunteers but we need tree surgeons for larger trees for example. We no longer receive £7000 annually from BCC and under the new lease we will be responsible for all maintenance on our sites.

HDAA's financial position is currently healthy

The meeting accepted the accounts as presented on a proposal by Phil Hopkins, seconded by Peter Newley

The meeting agreed to reappoint Stone and Co as our accountants on a proposal by Roger Chainey, seconded by Dick Probert

The Chair Neil Pirie proposed a vote of thanks to Brian for his work as Treasurer for the last 15 years.

6. Election of H&DAA Company Directors

Neil Pirie expressed our thanks to the two long serving Directors who are resigning from the date of the AGM: Marjorie McCartney and Ted Ayers-Hunt

The following four Directors stand down in accordance with the Association's three year rule: Neil Pirie, Sarah Rhodes, Brian Styles and Phil Hall

All have indicated that they are willing to stand for re-election. Steve Soffe and Phil Hopkins have also agreed to stand. All six were appointed on a show of hands from the meeting. Neil asked for anyone wishing to be a Director to come forward.

7. HDAA Centenary Jeremy Iles spoke of the Centenary Project of which he was the coordinator. A group was formed and met periodically under the guidance of Pete Clee. Volunteers gave about 200 hours.

An archive of recordings and videos will be deposited in Bristol records office.

One of the events was a communal apple harvest with fallen fruit being collected and made into juice and cider

A leaflet has been produced – this was available at the meeting – and Janet Tye, the designer and publisher has offered HDAA a new web site

Jeremy has contacted the Heritage Lottery to fund similar research on other Bristol allotments – he would welcome volunteers.

Jeremy thanked Pete Clee for managing the project.

8. Community Garden Report:

The report was given by Pete Clee

- The bale house caught fire but will be repaired.
- Thanks to all who sent donations with their rent.
- A new solar pump has enabled all Golden Hill to be on the ground water system – maybe even through the summer.
- Please contact Pete about any problems with gate padlocks
- The hauling ways will need work this year.
- He thanked Jeremy Iles for the Centenary Project work.

9. BCC Allotments Officer: Janet Hathway thanked HDAA for running so well.

She promised to progress the lease.

She said that BCC also has a problem with padlocks and is moving towards number locks.

She mentioned the Data Protection act – is it relevant to allotment associations?

There is unlikely to be any more money from BCC

BCC has 90% occupancy of plots and waiting lists are down. There are no plans currently to sell any allotment land.

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 2015-2016) was awarded to David and Pauline Battrick (29 Birchall field).

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

Pippa Bell (14a Longs field)

The Phyllis Brooks award for outstanding service to the Association was awarded to Phil Hopkins for his work on the Centenary Project.

Guest Speaker: Tim Scoones, a naturalist, film maker and broadcaster and the original series producer of Springwatch gave a wonderful talk about the importance of gardens and allotments to the survival and sustenance of wildlife. Tim has a plot on Golden Hill and his talk was beautifully illustrated with pictures that many of us recognized.

10. AOB: Katharine Alsop presented Ted Ayers-Hunt with a card and grateful thanks for his many years as a field rep on Birchall

The chairman Neil Pirie thanked Phyllis Brooks and all present. He also thanked Tim Scoones for the very enjoyable presentation.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9 35pm.

Horfield & District Allotment Association Ltd

Report for the AGM February 2018

We are often asked about the format of the Association and how it operates. We are a self-governing Company Limited by Guarantee. While the land belongs to the City Council, we are entirely responsible for the upkeep and maintenance – and rent collection. We don't pay the Council anything. **The Committee manages the allotments.** Most of the Committee are also Directors of the Company; comprising representatives from each Field. Most of us only know where our plot is, never mind knowing the name of our Field. And the other Fields are on different Planets. So:

Baptist : this is the field on Golden Hill adjacent to Donkey / or Dead Man's Lane, with an electricity substation in the top corner nearest Longmead Avenue. The large black water storage tanks are situated by the gate. [35 full plots]

Birchall : it lies between Birchall Road (opposite Kings Tennis Club) and Cairns Road and Cranbrook Road. This Field is used as an informal right of way, so security is a completely different ball game.. The field slopes in two directions and is very sunny. It also has a large underground Wessex Water storage tank underneath. [78]

Davis: the large field left / south of Baptist on Golden Hill; as with Baptist, has Donkey or Dead Man's Lane, running along the top. Many of the plots are divided into three or four [88 full plots]

Grahams : another site which is like a secret garden because outsiders don't know of its existence. There are two separate fields, lying to the rear of the houses on either side of Wessex Avenue. Each field has 20 plots running downhill. Difficult access for manure lorries.

Longs : this is the fourth Golden Hill field- between Donkey Lane and Kellaway Avenue (nearly). A field with great aspect. Dyrham Park easily visible [32 full plots]

St Agnes : this is the third Golden Hill field, below both Baptist and Davis. Accessed from Monk Road opposite the primary school playground. Site of pond, car park, toilet, large storage container, well for solar pump, and the Community Garden (polytunnels and Bale House) [76 full plots] This is also where compost deliveries are made – and wood chip for mulching.

2017 was the centenary of the Association. It has been marked by a gathering of information and anecdotes which have been condensed into a leaflet a booklet and oral records. The working group for this comprised Jeremy Iles, Phil Hopkins, Lucy Vilarkin, Lia Leendertz, Stuart Farthing and Pete Clee.

This year has also brought the decision to stand down by Christine and Brian Styles, in September. This will create a big gap. Marjorie McCartney also stood down as Secretary during the year. Caused by her move to Reading. Marjorie was a great benefit to the Association, bringing us into the 'having a web page era'. Ted Ayers Hunt has also decided to retire as a Field Rep on Birchall after many years' service. We owe him a big vote of thanks too. And Sarah and Matt Griffiths are retiring as Reps for Longs Field. While we have found volunteers to take on the work of Plot Manager and Treasurer, we need new Field reps at Longs, Baptist, St Agnes and Birchall.

Our water bills continue to be lower due to the solar powered pump at the lower end of St Agnes Field, taking ground water to the top of Baptist Field (Your committee hasn't found a way to take a supply to Grahams and Birchall Fields yet.)

Each Field has plotheolders who have a wider vision of society than their own plot. You see this in the clearing, tidying, pruning which gets done.

We now have a bee-keeping policy, thanks to the diligence of Katherine Alsop; and an extra plot on Birchall thanks to one enthusiastic allotmenteer.