



Minutes of the 2026 Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 29th April 2026 at Horfield Parish Hall, Wellington Hill, Bristol BS7 8ST.

Present Tony Jones (Chair, Management Committee) and Committee members Helen Appleton, Pete Bill, Jeremy Cook, Jamie Darke, Jan Davies, David Evans, Sian Hampson, Tim Hobbs, Phil Hopkins, Sarah Newns, Nick Northcott, Dominic O'Dwyer, Cathy Rice, Lesley Salmon and 45 additional H&DAA members.

Part 1 – 7.45 pm Small group discussions

Welcome and introduction

The meeting was opened and all members were welcomed by the Chair of the Management Committee Tony Jones. All members were invited to join a table for a small group discussion facilitated by members of the Management Committee. The two questions for discussion were:

- Volunteering – what would help, what could be done? – physical and non-physical, what is your expertise, mentoring.
- How can we make it easier for new tenants to get going, how can we support?

A member of the Management Committee took notes at each table and a couple of points from each table were shared with the room.

A summary of all of the points made follows:

Volunteering – what would help, what could be done? – physical and non-physical, what is your expertise, mentoring.

- More information on the website, e.g. on third party training courses
- Provide field-based WhatsApp groups and use to advertise jobs needing volunteers
- Advertise opportunities to volunteer, e.g. mentoring new plot holders.
- Asking for help on communal areas, e.g. manage planting, weeding
- Targeted mailshots to set up work parties, e.g. for rubbish clearance
- Regular work party days, so people know when to come, e.g. every 2-3 months

- Use different days for work parties, e.g. some Saturdays, some Sundays
- Sharing knowledge workshops
- Put up noticeboard saying what tasks need to be done by volunteers

How can we make it easier for new tenants to get going, how can we support?

- Provide courses or clinics for new plot holders
- Sheet of ideas to help people get started
- Offer a mentor to new plot holders.
- Volunteers to help new plot holders/people who are temporarily struggling with health or other issues
- Supporting people with no dig allotments, with compost deliveries
- Put new plot holders in touch with their neighbours.
- Improve overgrown plots before they are let/keep plots tidy to avoid dumping
- Encourage associates/clarify role of associates
- Support no-dig
- Communal sheds for communal tools
- Map of the site (so they know where people are)

Part 2 – 8:15 pm Formal AGM business

- 1. Apologies** Committee members Joe Baxter, Ed Mew, Stephen Morgan, Shannon Smith and Kirstin Whimster and additional H&DAA members
- 2. Minutes of the 2025 AGM** Caroline Hawkey Barnes proposed these be approved, Christine Lindop seconded and the Minutes were agreed.
- 3. Matters arising** None
- 4. Report from the Management Committee** Tony Jones introduced the previously circulated report from the Management Committee which covered the activities and priorities for the Committee over the last year. Tony highlighted the challenges of the rough sleeper at Golden Hill where some plot holders were distressed by his antisocial activities, and commended the Golden Hill field reps who had put a huge amount of work into addressing the issue. Tony also emphasised the value of volunteers, how all the Committee work was done by volunteers as well as other volunteers on the hedging team and work parties. The Committee was keen to encourage more volunteering, hence the focus for the group discussion earlier in the AGM.

A question from the floor asked what the current situation was with the rough sleeper.

Phil replied that since the additional security measures had been put in place in February, the rough sleeper had not been seen again. In particular, the short term provision of a security guard for a week seemed to have had a deterrent effect. But the Committee was aware of additional work that needed to be done, including improvements to fencing, which were in hand.

5. **Annual accounts and Treasurer's report** Phil Hopkins introduced the previously circulated report which covered the financial year ending 30th September 2025. Income was approximately £20,000, an improvement of approximately £1000. Estate costs had reduced by approximately £1000 as well. As planned the Association spent more on improving the fabric of the estate with a capital spend of approximately £10,500. This has reduced cash reserves by £5000, now £95,000, again as planned.

The Association will again spend more this year than it takes in. Capital spend on new pathways £6,500, waste removal £2000, tree surgery £5000, equipment £3000. Plot holders made voluntary contributions to the Community Garden totalling £700.

A question from the floor asked whether capital costs were likely to go up.

Phil replied that we had budgeted for anticipated increases in capital costs, and that they were not likely to be prohibitive.

6. Resolutions:

Ordinary Resolution: That H&DAA prohibits the use of glyphosate-and any product containing glyphosate on any allotment plots, paths boundaries or communal areas managed by the Association or other organisations on H&DAA sites with affect from May 1st 2026 and this requirement will be incorporated into the Tenancy Agreement and H&DAA rules.

One member spoke from the floor to support the motion, but also asked that the Committee write to neighbours asking them not to use glyphosate either as it can spread.

Two members spoke against the resolution, one saying they didn't like rules for the sake of it, the other believing that it was unnecessary as they believed Glyphosate was no longer available for personal use. This later point was disputed by the first member speaking.

For the Committee Sian Hampson restated the concern that glyphosate can have devastating impact on wildlife and the environment, and the impact on human health was still debated.

Vote: For 71 (including proxies), Against 2 (including proxy), Abstain 4.
Resolution carried.

Special Resolution: That the H&DAA Articles of Association be altered to the form of the draft Articles of Association as sent out to members with the AGM Calling Notice on March 30th 2026, to replace the previous Articles and Memorandum of Association dating from February 2003 which are currently registered at Companies House.

Vote: For 41, Against 1, Abstain 1.
Resolution carried.

7. Presentation of prizes by Field Reps Alice Nidd & Sian Hampson

The prizes (£25 gardening vouchers) for individual best progress in first year in each field were awarded in person to: Nicola & Andrew Thomas (Birchall), Mandy Webb (Birchall), Bob Willis (Grahams Highbury), Martha & Will Kewell (Grahams Telecom), Ian & Jane Holbrook (Longs), Rebecca Williams (St Agnes). Apologies were received from Lara & Jim Babington (Birchall), and their prize will be delivered.

8. Any other business.

Questions from the floor asked about the security of our lease with Bristol City Council, given that it was out of date and had not been formally renewed.

Tony as Chair and David as Co-Secretary answered to reassure the members that the Committee was confident that our position with the Council was secure, and it had no intention of seeking to alter the terms of the lease or increase our pepper corn rent. The Committee write to the Council each year reminding it that the formal lease has expired and confirming our understanding that the terms of the previous lease still apply.

A second question was asked about whether the Council could take land we are leasing and use it to build for housing.

Phil as Company Secretary answered that under national legislation the Council was constrained in what actions it could take to build on allotment land as long as the allotments were in appropriate use as ours definitely is.

9. Close 8.45 pm