

Harborne Hill Allotments Committee 17 November 2019

Present were;- A.Garbutt (Acting Chair and Sec), T.Beach (Treas.), N.Amos, G.Adams, A.Chebil, B.Coles, S.Coote, J.Long and J.Smith. Apologies were received from A.Thomson, D.Dennick and S.Visser. Jim Long and Julie Smith were welcomed as new Committee Members.

Minutes of last meeting – these were approved. Proposer N.Amos, Seconder J.Cherrington

Secretary's Report – Rent collecting was completed, about £5,000 was collected and having collected that amount we get back about 10% as a reward for our efforts. Five of our Tenants failed to pay and will be pursued by the Council. The fence on Yateley Road at the rear of Plot7a has been repaired. The long stretch of fence along Nursery Road that has been a concern for many months because we believe it to be dangerous particularly to the many school kids that walk close to it, in many places the bottom end of the railings are just dangling, the bar along the bottom edge has rotted away; it was turned down for repair by the Flo Pickering Assessment Team as they thought we were after a taller fence and ignored the bottom of the fence. Following feisty emails sent out by Tom Beach, Ron Stretton the Council's Principal Health and Safety Officer came down and agreed that it was a hazard and we have been informed that the fence will be replaced. Bonfires – a notice was put up to remind Tenants of the restrictions. There are about 10 vacant plots and there a number of people interested. Alistair Thomson our Chairman has let it be known that he wishes to stand down from position at the next AGM. It was announced that John Singleton had died, our supplies for the shop are purchased from John's business at Lydiate Ash, a card has been sent to Claire his wife on behalf of all of us. The Secretary reported that he will shortly be receiving treatment for a patch of early skin cancer on his face so may be missing for a few weeks. This report was accepted, Proposer S.Coote , Seconder T.Beach

Treasurer's Report – the bank balance remains healthy, distorted by the £5000+ which is rent money which will be passed on to the Council. "Go Daddy" is a payment to keep our website up and running and Travis Perkins is some timber purchase. The attached report was accepted. Proposer A.Chebil, Seconder N.Amos

Committee Recruitment – our constitution allows for 16 Committee members and we now have 13 with another on the way.

Water - the water will be turned off in the next few days. Since Water Plus took over responsibility for billing us all the bills have been based on estimates and we have been using more than the estimated amounts, this has been left as we are still seeking an allowance for used water that does not go into the drains which was factored in when Severn Trent billed us.

Shop – the potato orders are in and will be delivered in February. Dave Dennick has agreed to take over responsibility for the shop.

Website – Dave Dennick was thanked in his absence for keeping the website up to date.

Improvements – John Cherrington continues to smarten up the tool lockers. It was agreed that Shaun should cut the inside of the hedge on Kingscote Road as he has done for the last 2 years. Tom will look into repairing the side of the road by Ruth's plot.

There was no AOB, the date of the next meeting will be Sunday 15 March 2020 at 1030hrs followed by the AGM at 1100hrs.

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