

Minutes of Harborne Hill Allotments AGM 3 March 2019

Present were -A.Thomson (Chair), A.Garbutt (Sec), T.Beach (Treas.), A.Chebil, J.Cherrington, B.Coles, S.Coote, D.Dennick, N.Amos, S.Visser, R.Clarke, and G.Adams. Apologies were received from Caroline Shaw.

Minutes of last Meeting - the Minutes were approved. Proposer S.Visser, Seconder T Beach.

Chairman's Report - this year has got off to good start with unusually warm weather, we have 90 Tenants, and a few vacant plots, 3 small ones and one standard plot will become available shortly. You will hear later that our finances are in good order. We do receive a percentage of the rents providing that we collect the rents, and we do receive a maintenance grant from the Council. Nikki Bradley who for a number of years has been the Council's Allotment Officer resigned at the end of 2018. The BDAC (the Birmingham and District Allotment Confederation) are now taking on more responsibilities, and with many queries they should be addressed in the first instance to the BDAC. The flood in May 2018 was the largest we have ever experienced, we had been flood free for about 5 years, there was a need for extra work but the effected plots were soon brought back into use. Two cars were stolen during the year from the Site, one was crashed through the locked gates on to Harborne Road. A party of Year 8s from a local School during the last week of their Summer term came and helped us, the shop and the office buildings were painted, shrubs were trimmed and there was a general tidying up. I thank the members of this Committee for their efforts, manning the Shop, plumbing tasks, shrub trimming, ensuring the lavatories are clean and workable, and helping newcomers. This year we expect to see a new fence along Nursery Road and it is planned that this will be paid for out of monies from the Flo Pickering Fund, this is money raised by the Council selling Allotment Land, land that has not been used for growing vegetables for many year. Also, this year I would like to welcome volunteers to serve as Committee members, we are short of 3 Committee Members.

Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts - there was a query about the £2659 spent on maintenance, this was mainly due to the cost of cutting back the inside of the overgrown hedge along Kingscote Road, having got the hedge under control it will be trimmed each year. There being no further queries the report was approved. Brian Coles was thanked for preparing the Balance Sheet, and Sue Maslen will be thanked for auditing the accounts. Proposer N.Amos, Seconder J.Cherrington.

Committee Members - Peter Myers resigned and he was thanked for his 40 years as a committee member. Graeme Adams volunteered and will join the Committee as of now, that still leaves 3 vacancies. Stacey suggested we try and recruit some younger members.

Annual Subscriptions - it was agreed that should rise to £7

Website - this continues to be a good publicity vehicle for us. Dave Dennick advised us that it may be worthwhile to pay our Web Host and extra £50, so that our site is displayed as a secure site, that matter is left with him.

Site Improvements - John Cherrington has been fitting new tool locker doors and very much improved the appearance of the Site. It was agreed that we should seek a contractor to work on the guttering on the lockers and more doors.

AOB - there were no queries.

Date of next AGM March 2020