

Minutes of Harborne Hill Allotments Committee held on Sunday 29 July 2018

Present were - A.Thomson (Chair), A.Garbutt (Sec), T.Beach (Treas.), B.Coles, S.Coote, D.Dennick, A.Chebil, P.Myers, J.Cherrington, N.Amos, and S.Visser.

Minutes of last Meeting - these were approved, Proposer S.Visser, Seconder S.Coote

Secretary's Report - The 2 outstanding happenings since our last meeting have been the visit of Year 8 work parties from a Birmingham School for 4 days, and the theft of a car which was driven through the locked gates on to Harborne Road lunchtime Friday 20th July. The work completed by the Year 8s was impressive, painting of the exterior of the Office and Shed, painting the inside of the Office, cutting back the upgrowth from the base of trees, in some cases this growth was hanging out over the public footpaths which was a hazard, plus it prevented people passing by seeing into the Allotments which made the Allotment less secure. The car incident, the owner had left the keys in the ignition whilst it was parked on the Green at the end of the Allotments, the gate is badly damaged, it is propped up, and with a bit of effort pedestrians can squeeze through it. The Allotment Office have instructed a Contractor to have a look at the gate, I will pursue that matter this coming week. John Cherrington has fitted a number of new doors to tool lockers which has improved the appearance as well as bringing some lockers back into use.

The Secretary expressed a wish that he be replaced having held the post for 11 years, it was agreed that we should look at splitting the job for the future, in the mean time Stacey Visser will be introduced to some of the Secretary's responsibilities. This report was accepted, Proposer T.Beach, Seconder P.Myers.

Treasurer's Report - we have a healthy bank balance, about £200 was spent on paint, brushes and tools. The School children work party brought much of their own equipment. We paid a Water bill, the first one we have had for a while. This report was accepted, Proposer A.Chebil, Seconder S.Coote.

Water - our bills now come from WaterPlus, we have received one bill from them for the first few months of this year, it included VAT which in the past we were never billed for as the water we use is for irrigation in the production of food crops, so the bill was paid by our Treasurer less the VAT. A guy working for Severn Trent Water assured our Secretary that all the information about our account had been passed to WaterPlus so there should have been a smooth handover. It would appear that Allotment Committees across the City have had problems with WaterPlus. Water usage figures were produced to show that we use less water now than we used 10 years ago, most greenhouses and sheds are equipped to collect rain water. Tom will order 10 more water butts.

Allotment Plots - Letters of Concern were sent to a number of our Tenants as little or nothing had been done on their Plots this year. There has been a positive response in half of these cases, for the future Letters of Intent must be issued in Autumn to urge Tenants with

poorly cultivated plots to prepare their Plots during the Winter ready for sowing and planting in the following Spring. Mention was made of an entry on the Harborne Community Facebook site of a guy seeking a free allotment, our Julie Smith Plot 56 contributed the fact that a small plot with us costs 16p a day, a bargain!

Shop - Japanese Onions have been ordered and should in the Shop in mid September, Dave Dennick is preparing the vouchers for potato sales, he has also been busy bringing the website up to date.

Improvements and Annual Subscriptions - Brief discussion on improvements and how to pay for them. Any increase in Subs to be discussed at AGM.

Next Meeting - Sunday 30 the September 2018