

Harborne Hill Allotments Committee Meeting Sunday 3rd 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, and S.Visser.

Minutes of last meeting - there were no queries and the Minutes were approved. Proposer T.Beach, Seconder N.Amos.

Secretary's Report Mar 19 - the year has got off to good start weather wise, Dagmar already has her Early and Main Crop potatoes planted. We have 90 Tenants, and a small number of vacant plots, 3 small plots, plus one standard plot will be vacant shortly, Adrian Corry on Plot 100 has moved out of Birmingham, he wants to sell his poly tunnel. Shortly before Christmas Tom and I attended a "bun fight" at Kings Heath Park, there was a big turnout, it was a Farewell party for Nikki Bradley. The BDAC have stepped up a gear, we now get a newsletter, I have suggested that we receive copies of the Minutes of their two monthly Executive Committee Meetings. The Allotment Sites have been split into 7 teams, we are in Team Three with nominated Advisors, which is a good idea, but it is not working as it should, we have two Advisors, I only know one of them. There should be Team Meetings. The Nursery Road railings, Nikki Bradley assured me that this work was programmed to be in the second tranche of work to be completed in 2019 and paid for from the Flo Pickering Fund, plus she had cleared it with Savills who act as Agents for the Calthorpe Estate. Water Plus, the immediate problem is the time it takes for the bills to arrive with me, the last bill was issued by Water Plus on 25th January and took 3 weeks to get to me. The reminder bill was issued before the I received the bill, along with the threat of penalty charges. Nikki Bradley said that one of the problems with the move of the Allotment office was the system of sending mail from there. Water usage last year was 137 Units similar to previous years, the last few bills have been estimated readings and those readings have been lower than what we use, it was agreed that Water Plus should be made aware of actual readings. Also, Water Plus should be contacted about the "Used Water Charge" as most of our water is used for watering crops. Walsall Road Allotments, they were assured at a meeting held a year ago that there was no threat from the Commonwealth Games developments going on around them but now they have been told otherwise. Many of our Tenants have told me that they have added their names of protesters which is good. This report was accepted, Proposer P. Myers, Seconder A.Chebil

Treasurer's Report - a healthy bank balance, surprisingly good shop sales last month. Figures attached. It was agreed money should be spent on improving rain collection and tool lockers.

Last Year's Audited Accounts- a few queries, all answered. Brian was thanked for getting the Balance Sheet together. Sue Maslen will be thanked for auditing the accounts.

AGM - it was agreed that we should seek approval to raise the Annual Subscription to £7 and recruit new Committee Members.

Plant Swap Day - it was left that we will select a date probably in May depending on the weather.

Website - figures were produced showing that the site is getting many "hits", and we do get contacts about the availability of plots as a result of the website.

AOB- none

Date of next meeting Sunday 12 May 2019