

Harborne Hill Allotments Committee Meeting 13th September 2015

Present were - A.Garbutt (Sec), T.Beach (Treas.), B.Coles who Chaired the Meeting, D.Dennick, P.Myers, A.Chebil, N.Amos, S.Coote, and R.Clarke, apologies were received from A.Thomson

Secretary's Report - the weather could have been better this Summer, still waiting for my sweet corn to ripen, Potatoes seemed to have done well, plus there were plenty of strawberries. Unfortunately there has been some pilfering of fruit, plums and pears, a Monkjack deer has been spotted on the site. he may account for some of the pilfering. The bridge at the back of Peter Bovenzi's plot has been repaired by Tom slightly over budget but good and has been approved by Keith Parkes, so it must be good. Tyres, I thought that had been sorted, but more appeared, that plotholder is comparatively new and they were removed. Stuart Bickley took over a plot that needed clearing, he called in a "professional" and that looks good. Ground Maintenance, the Parks dept are still responsible for Grass cutting, Hedge Cutting along Kingscote Road and Yateley Road, clearing the grills on the Chad Brook at the Harborne Road end and inspecting the whole length of the Brook Course every 8 weeks and clearing any debris. I always had my doubts as whether or not they bothered to inspect the whole length of the brook course, it was recently inspected after a fashion but they missed a shopping trolley! Clearing of the grills is organised by the Transportation Dept. and that is being done well and regularly. I said that we would cut the privet round the "Secret garden" because of the bees and the Council pays us an extra £107 for that. Rent Collecting will start in the next couple of weeks, for those paying by cheque, the Cheques must be made out to " Harborne Hill Leisure Gardens", Tom will then issue a cheque for the rents made payable to the Council. There is a small increase this year. We will need two cheques, one for the rent the other for the Association Subscription, it was agreed that this subscription will remain at £5. This report was approved, Proposer Tom Beach and Secunder Neville Amos

Treasurer's Report - Balance at the Bank £7928 + £20 float for shop. Shop Sales for June, July and August £299, Expenditure £16 for chain and welder for locks, metal mesh, paint, and scaffold poles for bridge £212, water bill £245, plus we are due a water bill of about £50. Money from the Council for Maintenance for two years up to April 2016 will be almost £2,900 of which we have spent about £1500, leaving £1372. Whilst we feel that we would like to build up funds to cope with "disasters" we felt that elements in BCC could misinterpret such a stance and that that could be used as an excuse to reduce the Maintenance Grant. Possibilities for spending this money, Fencing, hedges, Lockers. The Report was approved, Proposer Sue Coote and Secunder Peter Myers.

Water Usage - 128 units so far this year, compared with 123 units for 2014, both of these figures are low compared with the past, the highest figure on record was 360 units in 2013. More can be done by individuals to store water from sheds and greenhouses

Dirty Plots - concern was expressed about certain plots, and it was agreed that pressure must be kept up on a few individuals

Shop and Shop Rota - Japanese Onions are now in stock and seed potato sales will start in the next few weeks.

Website - Dave Dennick said that he will be updating the website, and reminded us that he would be spending £30 to keep it going for another year, he appealed for recipes or any other contribution, the two blogs are definitely worth keeping an eye on.

A.O.B Succession planning for Committee Officers

Date of next meeting Sunday 13th November 2015