

Harborne Hill Allotments AGM Minutes Sun 15 March 2020

Present were – A.Garbutt(Acting Chair and Sec), T.Beach(treas.), N.Amos, G.Adams, B.Coles, S.Coote, J.Long, D.Dennick, A.Chebil, J.Smith and S,Thorpe. Apologies were received from A.Thomson, J.Cherrington, P.Lennox, C.Shaw.

Minutes of the last meeting – these were approved. Proposer – T.Beach, Seconder – S.Coote

Secretary's Report – in the absence of a Chairman's report. The main change this year has been the appointment of a new personality in the Allotment Office who does her best in the hours she is paid for to cope with the job. She is doing very well, but it can take time to get a reply from her on routine matters as she has to prioritise her tasks, not easy for her. There was another car theft, making three car thefts in the last 18 months, the best part of these car thefts has been the replacement of 2 creaking gates. Last year was challenging because of the weather, even so we have taken on a number of new Tenants who are making good progress, the latest, Stephen already has erected a wooden shed on stilts by the Chad Brook. We have 7 vacant small plots and a few potential Tenants.

The fence along Nursery Road; an order has been placed by the Allotment Office for the replacement of this fence, the fence has been dangerous for some time, the lower part is rotten. We have been pushing to get this fence replaced for about 3 years. Another problem is the collapsed road retaining wall by Plot 55, a request has been raised for repairs to be paid for by the Flo Pickering Fund, we await a decision.

Water – this last year we have the lowest number of units used but the highest bill (£345), there is no allowance for water that we use which is not returned to the sewers, this has been the case since Water Plus took on the task of raising the water bills from Severn Trent Water.

Committee Officers – our Chairman has “stood down” and the Secretary who no longer has a plot wishes to be replaced, however he has agreed to stay for another year, and Dave Dennick is the new Chairman.

Despite the weather 2019 was a productive year, we have a number of new Tenants who have made a good start, we have two new gates, and the promise of a new fence along Nursery Road.

Treasurer's Report – the balance sheet for the year ending 31st December 2019 was discussed. It was explained that the Devolved Budget money paid to us by the Council £1,571 has to be accounted for, no problem there. Other income is commission on collecting rents about £500 and Annual Subscription £606. Brian Coles was thanked for preparing the Balance Sheet and Sue Maslen for auditing the accounts.

Association Subscriptions – it was agreed that this should remain at £7

Officer's Honoraria – it was agreed that these should remain at current level, and that Dave Dennick should receive £100 to cover his casual expenses as Shop Manager and Webmaster.

Membership of the Committee and Officers - recruitment of new Committee members should be pursued, Dave Dennick volunteered to be our new Chairman.

Improvements for the coming year - continuing replacement of tool locker doors, moss to be removed from pathways alongside tool lockers and from bridges, paving slabs from Plots 100 to 110 to be re-laid, drainage of water trapped in front of tool lockers facing the shop.

Website - this continues to help in the recruitment of new Tenants and is a means of keeping our current Tenants informed. The question as whether or not we should pay to have our site declared a "secure" site, as it is, we get many hits and it may not worth the expense, to be reviewed. Dave was thanked for keeping our website up to date.

The Shop – last year the shop takings were up about 14%, Dave Dennick is now Shop Manager, Singletons our suppliers have put up the prices of various items and now charge for deliveries so now we have a new price list.

AOB - none

Date of next AGM March 2021