

Minutes Of the Harborne Hill Allotments Committee Meeting On Sunday 3rd June 2018.

Present were :- A.Thomson (Chair), A.Garbutt (Sec), T.Beach (Treas), B.Coles, S.Coote, D.Dennick, A.Chebil, P.Myers, J.Cherrington, and S.Visser. Apologies were received from N.Amos, and R.Clarke. The meeting was held al fresco, a novelty, due to the effect of the flood.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved. Proposer P.Myers, Seconder T.Beach

Secretary's Report - the main event has been the thunder, lightening, rain and flooding of the Bank Holiday Weekend. The question is always were the grills clear at the Harborne Road end of the Chad Brook clear of rubbish, well they were, in this case it was the sheer volume of water coming down that was the problem. The depth of water in the Office was 1 foot. Tom met a lady from Severn Trent Water who was visiting the scene, SWT are partly responsible for flood control as is the Environment Agency and BCC but she apparently suggested that there were some grey areas. I attended the BDAC AGM, there are some new personalities, Barbara Smith is the Secretary and is making herself felt. The BDAC receives £9000 for the running of the organisation plus BCC pays for the Insurance for the sites, £7,213 this year. They now have a container at Moor Green Allotments for storing equipment used at the Allotment Show, that show this year will be held on the August Bank Holiday Weekend in doors in the Midlands Art Centre. In the last month 3 plots have been let and all have made a good start. Bees - 3 colonies out of 4 failed over the Winter, but now are back up to 4 active hives, thanks in the case of one colony to a swarm Nathaniel took about 10 days ago. Yesterday there was a report of a possible swarm which turned out to be a few excited bees. Asian Hornets are increasingly reported in England. The Asian Hornet nest is usually high in a tree and has a distinctive shape, a picture of the nest of a Asian Hornets was circulated. Peter Bovenzi says that he is willing to give us a day towards the end of the year as he did last year, any other offers will be welcomed. Plant swap was organised one recent weekend. Dumping of rubbish by the Secret Garden has got out of hand it is suspected that rubbish from outside the allotments is being left there which must stop. The fire extinguishers have not been checked by Firemark since 2015, they used to be checked annually, it is expected that they will be checked shortly. This report was accepted, Proposer A.Chebil. Seconder S.Visser

Treasurer's Report - a healthy bank balance, BCC in the process of paying us £554.10 as our percentage of the rents collected, and £1465 for water and maintenance costs, this should be paid in 05/06. £254 spent on paint for painting the Office and Shed. Report attached.

Water Bills - the last bill we received from Severn Trent was dated 17 April 2017. STW formed a new Company to issue water bills to none residential customers, we are waiting for a bill, we check our usage of water and it is line with what we have used in the past ,so by September of this year we should be owing them about £700.

General Data Protection Act - the notice board announcement from BCC has been posted, and those guidelines are being followed.

Dirty Plots - The Chairman has been in contact with a number of Tenants about the state of their plots, in some cases there has been no activity this year. This can result in Tenants losing their Tenancies.

Shop - fully stocked.

Website - Dave reported that the site continues to get many hits, he appealed for more items including a Newsletter.

Improvements - John Cherrington continues smartening up the tool lockers. Painting of the Shop and Office is planned before the end of the year.

AOB - None

Date of next meeting Sun 29 July 2018 at 1030hrs