

## **Harborne Hill Allotments Committee Meeting 15 March 2020**

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

**Minutes of last meeting** – these were approved. Proposer T.Beach Secunder S.Coote

**Secretary's Report** - We have survived the high winds and rain of the last few weeks, and thankfully have avoided snow. Since the last meeting we have taken on 6 new Tenants and with exception of one all have been working hard on their plots. We have 7 vacant plots, all are small and most require some hard work to clear them, but we have a number of people interested. I am delighted that Joseph (Ruth's son) is clearing Plot 33 for a friend, plot 33 has been an annoyance for its neighbours for too long. My immediate concern is the Committee and appointment of Officers. Alistair Thomson has expressed a wish to stand down as Chairman, and there is my wish to quit as Secretary. Stacey Visser was very willing to help me and learn more about the Secretary's role but finds that having a baby and a full time job rules her out for the time being. Dave Dennick has taken over responsibility for the Shop, and you can see the improvements. The saga of the fence along Nursery Road is about to end, Tom has had an email in the last few days assuring him that an order has been raised to get this fence replaced. I have been approached about a work party of Year 8s to help us for a week in mid-July, they have been very good for the last 2 years, plus there has been an approach from Birmingham University for their volunteers to help during July. Joy Ashworth the lady who for many years voluntarily has collected rubbish on Harborne Road and inside our allotments is planning to get some help from the pupils from the school on Harborne Hill. Peter Brown has strimmed Plots 99a and 99b making that area look a lot better. Stephen Jarvis 57b has made a good start, he already has a new shed on stilts on the bank of the Chad Brook. Both of our beekeepers have renewed their membership of Birmingham Beekeepers which provides them with the insurance cover which they are required to have in order to have hives on this site. We have had a request for a skip which we can discuss in AOB. This report was accepted, Proposer J.Long Secunder G.Adams.

**Treasurer's Report** – the Balance Sheet for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2019 was perused, shop taking were up 15% as were Association Subs. The devolved budget paid to us by BCC was £1,571 plus our commission for collecting rents was £ 500+, and the gross profit from shop sales was up at £528. The report for the last 5 months and the Balance Sheet were approved. Proposer, A.Chebil, Secunder N.Amos

**Proposals for tasks for Committee Members** – details were distributed, and it was agreed that this matter would be discussed at a later date.

**Shop** – Dave Dennick has taken over as shop manager. There is a new price list and new Tenants will receive details of what is available and what item should be used and when. Hoof and Horn is now in stock.

**Webmaster** –the site continues to get many "hits" and from it we do receive many enquiries, Dave was thanked for keeping it updated. Do we need to pay for it to appear as a secure site?

**Improvements** - continuing replacement of locker doors, removal of moss from paths, re-setting of slabs from Plots 100 to 104.

**AOB** – Jim raised the problem of water collecting on the tarmac between the shop and the tool lockers, and the possibility of a seedling swop day.

**Date of next meeting Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 1030hrs**