

Highfield Lane Allotments



Minutes of the AGM held on the 28th February 2013

1 Meeting opened by the Chairman Mr W Stone at 7:28pm

2 Members attending :- C Smith; D Barker; A Maynard, C Frost; M Smith; A Booth; S Richardson, W Stone, B Hollingshurst; M Hollingshurst; M Stubbs; T R West; J Macquisten; M Macquisten; M Taylor; R Hill; B Hill, R Cox, M James, A Hatton, P Springer and B Weild.

3 Apologies received from K Maynard (1719), L Reeve, A Reeve (1715), J Morley (1725), B Farnsworth (1682) and L Alcock (1707).

4 Minutes of the 2012 AGM were read out by Colin Smith

5 There were two matters arising from the minutes.

5.1 Previous 18a: A stamp for cheques has been obtained.

5.2 Previous 18f: A list of plot holder's names and plot numbers cannot be displayed due to Data Protection Act requirements. It was agreed that a list containing first names and plot number be produced, for display in the shop, after obtaining written permission from plot holders.

6 The 2012 AGM minutes were accepted: proposed M Hollingshurst seconded A Booth with all being in favour.

7 There were no correspondence pertaining to the AGM.

8 The chairman reported that we have once again experienced a good year, although the growing season left a lot to be desired with all the cold and wet and a distinct lack of sun. The disabled garden has progressed almost to completion and we are working to find a tenant. The allotments web site is looking good and very professional. The new shop has been up and running since the spring its success is prevalent for all to see. We have built a very good access ramp to the shop and have a new fence in place; the painting of the shop is almost complete only the weather stopped us. The stone on the bottom car park has been laid to a very professional standard together with the disabled parking area. The bees on site are holding their own despite the atrocious weather I can recommend the honey; why not buy some from the shop.

The allotment site has been well maintained throughout the year with grass cut and road stone laid. Bushes and shrubs planted for us to use in the future, the list goes on and I know that I have missed things out. What I really want to say, is the biggest asset we have is the band of people who gladly give up their time and energy for the good of every plot holder on site. Starting up the new shop took an enormous amount of time and energy we will never be able to repay our debt of gratitude for the time and hard work put in by Mick and Barbara.

This in itself has made more work for Colin (we thank you). For the people who were on the end of shovels rakes and paintbrushes (we say thank you). For the people behind strimmers, lawnmowers and wheelbarrows (we thank you). For all the events that took place in 2012 I can assure you that we did not use one single magic wand, just endeavour and hard work. You know how you are (we say thank you). Lastly to the lovely lady who every week cleans the site toilet (Jennie we say thank you)..

9 There was a question about the location of the website: the address can be found on the notice board or in the Good Life.

10 The Trading Secretary stated that in 2012 we purchased a new container for the shop and he thanked all who have help fit, paint and lift it up when needed. He also gave a big thanks to Jenny for all her hard work keeping the shop rotor running so smoothly and helping in the shop. In addition many thanks to all who have given their time to help serve pack and tidy the shop. There are now more items on sale including loose products, seed, onion sets etc. The Treasure's report shows the finances of the shop. Plans for 2013 include a new roof, finishing painting the shop front and fitting a hand rail to the entrance any help to do these jobs will be greatly appreciated; please keep an eye on the site's notice board for more information.

Before we forget I also must thank Jenny for keeping us all safe by maintaining the toilet. Last of all I thank all past and future customers

11 From the Trading Secretary's report a question about the proposed roof to the new shop was asked. It was reported that the roof of the container was in poor condition and that it has now been treated but the best action is to provide a new insulating roof that will provide suitable protection..

12 The Treasure circulated copies of the audited accounts and reported that income (rents) was much the same as 2011 however the shop income (sales) is about £400 down on 2011. The Allotments expenditure is about £500 less than 2011, however 2012 was a really wet summer and consequently the water bill was approx £700 less than 2011, so if the weather had been "normal" we would probably have made a loss.

We have expended about £1000 more on the shop than in 2011. There are a number of reasons for this. Firstly we have had a new shop, bought for us by the efforts of the Show & Events committee, but we have had to pay various costs such as the surveyor, outfitting the shop and the ramp. Secondly we have changed from a system of paying the trading secretary a commission yearly in arrears, to one of paying his expenses as he incurs them, so in effect there are two years worth in the 2012 accounts.

We have received two grants this year:-

- 1) From the Chaddesden Neighbourhood Board for the lower car park. We would like to thank Dave Brown of Breedon Aggregates for his advice on the drainage and wheelchair friendly surfaces, and also the staff of the cemetery who spread out the 80 tons of stone for us (and also cleared the site of the new shop).
- 2) From the Chaddesden & Derwent Boards for the shop fence.

The Derbyshire Community Foundation Grant shown for 2011 was for the Carbon Digt Garden by the lower car park, which is now almost complete (the only item outstanding is the erection of the gazebo).

Turning to the balance sheet we have made an overall operating loss of £155 this year. This is in the main due to the exceptional expenses of the new shop. However we have increased the shop stock, or to put it another way, not sold as much.

I should also mention that we owe the City Council £10 for the rent of the new shop plot. They have not yet sent a bill.

Now, looking to the future, we are trying to encourage members to use the shop more. The basic idea is that we use our bulk buying power to sell things we all need at a cheaper price than the shops. This means that it is not necessary for the shop to make a large profit, just as long as we cover our running costs. The trading secretary has several new lines this year which I will leave him to tell you about. In order to encourage people to use the shop Brian & Jack have used the money they have raised from the sale of scrap to provide vouchers for all members to spend in the shop I must at this point apologise to the members who are new this year as we have somehow missed giving them vouchers. We will remedy this as soon as possible.

Now on a serious note, times are hard and the City Council are cutting their budgets. In particular the lease of the site is due for renewal, and we have heard that the existing rebate scheme is to be scrapped. We do not know exactly what will replace it, but whatever it is (if anything) it will certainly be much less generous and I regret that I should advise you to budget accordingly.

13 From the Treasurer's report a question about Treasures and Secretary's expenses was raised. It was explained that postage was the area of expense but most letters are delivered by hand. In addition a lot of communications are carried out by email.

The operating loss and how it was covered was raised: year on year we try to break even some years we have a surplus, which goes into the reserves, some years we have a loss, the reserves are reduced.

The Gazebo for the Carbon Digit garden was raised: this was part of the design which has been paid for and is to be delivered later this year.

14 The audited 2012 accounts were signed off by the Auditor. It was proposed by M James that the accounts be accepted, seconded by T West. All present were in favour. The Chairman and two members signed the accounts.

15 The Treasurer thanked Sue Richardson her work as auditor. Sue has agreed to carry out the duties of auditor for 2013. Prop to continue C Smith Sec R Cox. All present were in favour.

16 The current officers and committee were dismissed but continue until the end of the meeting.

17The officers for 2013/14 were appointed as follows: -

Nomination forms provided were completed for the following positions:

Position	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded	Vote
Chairman	W Stone	C Smith & J Macquisten	D Barker & C. Frost	All in favour
Treasurer	C Smith	D Barker & J Macquisten	W Stone & C Frost	
Secretary	A Maynard	J Macquisten	C Frost	
Trading Secretary		J Macquisten	C Frost	
Committee	D Barker	A Maynard	B Hollingshurst	
	C Frost	J Macquisten	J Morley	
	J Morley	J Macquisten	C Frost	
	B Farnsworth	J Macquisten	M Macquisten	
	J Macquisten	C Frost	J Morley	

At the meeting the following were proposed and they accepted the nominations.

Position	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded	Vote
Committee	A Booth			All in favour
	B Hollingshurst			
	B Weild			
	M Taylor			
	R Cox			
	M James			
	M Stubbs			
	T West			

18 AOB no items were notified before the meeting.

19 The date for the first committee meeting of 2013 is 10.00am at the Site Meeting Room Saturday 6th April.

20 The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.30pm