

Highfield Lane Allotments



Minutes of the AGM held on the 26th February 2015

1 Meeting opened by the Chairman Mr W Stone at 7:32pm

2 Members attending :- C Smith (1667); D Barker (1720); A Maynard (1702A), L Alcock (1707), M Smith (1667); S James (1727), W Stone (1676), B Hollingshurst (1671); M Hollingshurst (1670), B Farnsworth (1682); T R West (1690); J Morley (1725), J Macquisten (1718B); M Macquisten (1718B), R Cox (1706), M Taylor (1675), M James (1727), K Springer (1714A), G Brock (1677) and S Garner (1673A).

3 Apologies received from L Reeve, A Reeve, C Frost and V Cox (who thanked the committee for all their hard work).

4 Minutes of the 2014 AGM were available on the website and by agreement of those present not to be read out.

5 There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6 The 2014 AGM minutes were accepted: proposed R Cox seconded B Farnsworth with all being in favour: the Chairman signed to minutes.

7 There were no correspondence pertaining to the AGM.

8 The chairman reported that we have had a good year. Crops have seen improvements in some areas and failures in others: a normal year. The disable garden has a tenant for part of the site with the high bed areas still waiting to be let. We have had a number of plots given up with new gardeners moving on. We still have a waiting list of about 14 which is reduction from last year's 22: most will be new to the site.

Maintenance of the site has been difficult with arranged working parties coinciding with rain: if you want rain organise a working party! The roof to the new shop is one of those projects that fell down to poor weather.

The Show and events sub-committee were able to put up a varied series of events including attendance at the Big 1 in Chaddesden Park. We were blessed with good weather for all of the events. A contribution from the S&E to the main site for any special projects was made during the year.

Lastly a big thank you to all of you who helped kept the site running. To those of you who gave your time up to ensure that events went ahead; thank you.

9 The matter arising from the Chairman's report related to working parties and the lack of support from the majority of plot holders. Several comments were passed and the Chairman requested ideas be passed to him. It was agreed that more plot holders needed to be involved and the main suggestion was to try Sundays instead of Saturday or Wednesday with specific tasks identified. In addition it was suggested that we engage more with plot holders and pull together a list of more willing people rather than just sending round a broad email. It was agreed that something be put in the "Good Life".

10 The Trading Secretary reported that takings and profits are down. This due to keeping prices stable and the Kings Seed orders down due to short period to order. The Kings Seeds catalogue shall be obtained earlier in 2015. Training has been given to new people thus expanding the pool of people who can work in the shop. Thanks to Jenny for keeping the rotor of helpers organised and for working in the shop. Also thanks to those who helped in the unloading of stock.

11 From the Trading Secretary's report thanks was given to Mick for the work done by the Chairman.

12 The Treasure circulated copies of the audited accounts and reported that the only income is from rents. The water bill was higher due to the way the bills are sent.

Treasurers Report 2014

The Allotments income (rents) is much the same as 2013, however the shop income (sales) is about £1000 down on 2013.

There is an amount of £352 shown as miscellaneous expenditure.

These were purchases made on behalf of the Show and Events committee, which were passed on at cost, and so also show as miscellaneous income.

Taking this into account the Allotments expenditure is about £250 up on 2013. The rent to the city council has gone up. We have spent £110 more on water (with £75 still to come) and we have spent more on maintenance.

I would like to thank the Show and Events committee for the £1000 they have given us this year. This is shown under the heading of development fund in the accounts, to ensure it remains separate from the general funds. We (you) have erected a lean to shelter in the lower car park. The plans to improve the drainage by the plant hut did not come to fruition, and I am not quite sure what is going to happen about that. The balance of the development fund now stands at £1874.

We have bought the same amount of shop stock as in 2013, however you have bought £1000 less from the shop. This does not mean that we have made a loss in the shop, although the profit we have made is £167 this year, as opposed to £540 last year. What it does mean is that there is a slightly higher level of stock in the shop. I have shown the shop cash flow position on the sheet. While the shop profit and loss account shows the profit made on stock actually sold the cash flow position shows how the cash works. We have paid out £3000 for stock and we have sold £3150 worth of goods, so taking into account expenses we have gained £25 in cash.

Turning to the balance sheet we have made an overall operating profit of £420 this year. However we are holding £216 for potato and manure orders so in reality we have made £200 which is reflecting in the amount of available cash we have.

One item for concern in 2015 is that Derby City Council has announced that they are to no longer accept payments by cheque from 1st April. The three Chaddesden Councillors were written to and only Sara Bolton got officers to reply. The reason behind the decision is one of costs as it cost £3.09 to process each cheque payment. We will have to look at other ways to pay e.g. Bank Transfer (if we get correct invoices).

13 From the Treasurer's report a question about the high level of "Maintenance". There was more maintenance of plant in 2014 than 2013 with a number of machine failures being repaired. There were no other questions.

14 The audited 2013 accounts were signed off by the Auditor. It was proposed by L Alcock that the accounts be accepted, seconded by M Hollingshurst. All present were in favour. The Chairman, Proposer and Seconder signed the accounts. The Chairman passed thanks to Colin for presenting the accounts in an easy to understand format.

15 The Treasurer thanked Sue James for her work as auditor. Sue has agreed to carry out the duties of auditor for 2015. Prop to continue C Smith Sec A Maynard. All present were in favour.

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

17 The officers for 2015/16 were appointed as follows: -

Nomination forms provided were completed for the following positions:

Position	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded	Vote
Chairman	W Stone	S Garner	J Morley	
Treasurer	C Smith	S Garner	J R West	
Secretary	A Maynard	J Macquisten	M Macquisten	
Trading Secretary	M Hollingshurst	S Garner	B Farnsworth	
Committee	J Macquisten	M Macquisten	A Maynard	

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

Position	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded	Vote
Committee	D Barker			
	J Morley			
	M James			
	B Farnsworth			
	R Cox			
	L Alcock			
	S Garner			
	K Springer			
	M Taylor			
	T West			

18 AOB:

- a) B Farnsworth proposed a thank you to Jenny for doing the cleaning and maintenance of the toilet: all were in agreement.
- b) L Alcock requested clarification about dogs on site and their "poo". The Hon Secretary confirmed rule 17 "Dogs accompanying their owners must be kept under control. All dog "Poo" to be picked up and disposed of." It was agreed that a notice be put in the "Good Life" and if there are any issues please report them to the Hon Secretary. It was questioned if "under control" needs to be changed to "on a lead".
- c) M James questions the parking of vehicles on site. Rule 10 states: No parking on the drive: only loading and unloading allowed. There is no other restriction of parking on site.

19 The date for the first committee meeting of 2015 is 10.00am at the Site Meeting Room Saturday 28th March (no clash with football).

20 The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.37pm