

# Highfield Lane Allotments



## Minutes of the AGM held on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016

1 Meeting opened by the Chairman Mr W Stone at 7:30pm

2 Members attending :- C Smith (1667); D Barker (1720); A Maynard (1719), S James (1727), W Stone (1676), B Hollingshurst (1671); M Hollingshurst (1670), T R West (1690); J Morley (1725), J Macquisten (1722); M Macquisten (1722), R Cox (1706), D Gray (1699); C Clements (1710); M Taylor (1675), K Simpson (1702E); C Simpson (1702D) and Ms Smith (1710).

3 Apologies received from J Sharp; K Springer; L Reeve, A Reeve, M Smith and B Farnsworth.

4 Minutes of the 2015 AGM were available on the website and by request read out.

5 There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6 The 2015 AGM minutes were accepted: proposed R Cox seconded M Hollingshurst with all being in favour: the Chairman signed the minutes.

7 There were no correspondence pertaining to the AGM.

8 The chairman reported that once again we have had a great year and I think "how did that happen"; well it's down to lots of good people who have been working quietly in the background to make Highfield Lane allotments the best in Derby. The growing season has been challenging, to say the least, with some drought and cold wet conditions, which resulted in poor germination and slow growth of some crops, but on the whole we have had reasonable results.

All plot holders have paid their rents. This is the first time that has happened before the AGM. While we still have a waiting list of about 10 which is reduction of 4 from last year: most are for specific plots. We do have six plots vacant of which three are mini; two are halves and one almost full.

The item that disappoints me most is that of working parties; there is maintenance work on site that requires a working party to achieve, without the goodwill of people this important maintenance is not auctioned and the danger is that the site falls into disrepair. If anyone has any good ideas on how we can move forward and improve this in 2016 then please share them.

We now have a pick-up on-site making life easier to move things about, so we need to say a big thanks you to Anthony for donating this valuable piece of kit.

Unfortunately we are still experiencing theft on a larger scale than we have had for a long time and as yet we have not been able to catch the culprit or culprits. If you have had anything go missing please let us know.

I am looking forward to 2016 and hopefully some good weather to enjoy. There is nothing better than being on your plot on a nice summer's day! With those thoughts in mind it just leaves me to thank all of the committee who have worked so hard throughout 2015, without all of your valuable work we are nothing.

9 The matter arising from the Chairman's report related to a missing bike from plot 1725. It was confirmed that we all need to be vigilant and ensure that we do not make it easy for people getting into and out of the site.

10 The Trading Secretary reported that we have had a reasonable year. Unfortunately there was a break in to the shop so the windows, at the back, have been secured at solar lighting installed inside. In addition we have

put up a number of mobile cameras (nothing caught – yet). Thanks to Jenny for keeping the rota of helpers organised and for working in the shop: we still need more – any takers? We are not going to be getting any strong weed killer as we will need a licence (high cost low turnover). Please take note of the “Use it or Loose” notices this applies to the site and its shop.

11 From the Trading Secretary’s report thanks and a suggestion of a payment was proposed by C Smith (the payment was not wanted) the tanks was seconded by M Taylor – all present were in favour.

12 The Treasure circulated copies of the audited accounts and reported the following:-

Starting with the income:- The plot rents were about the same as last year, we had one plot vacant all year , which was the raised beds on the disabled plot. (We have a number of starter plots vacant at the moment.) We had a new item of income, which was the Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture science , based in Lowestoft who purchased a quantity of vegetables from us to test for radiation fallout from RRN on Raynesway. Hopefully this will be an ongoing item.

The shop sales were up this year by about £600, and I have shown the Seed order discount that we receive as a separate item this year , really to raise awareness that we get a discount from the supplier if the order passes a certain figure.

We received a grant of £169.50 from Chaddesden Neighbourhood Board to enable us to purchase road stone for the potholes in the driveway. (This used to be provided by the City Council).

A big thank you to the show and events committee for £1000 which has been placed in the development fund to be used on projects to improve the allotments.

On the expenditure:- We paid £228 for removal of rubbish from the site , again this is something the Council used to pay for. It must have rained a lot last year as the water bill is lower than the year before.

The maintenance figure is up because we purchased some cameras following the break in at the shop. For the shop, we have purchased slightly less stock, and again for the first time I have shown the amount of the seed order as a separate item. We have used money from the development fund for new sheets for the shop roof (Installation by Jack) and solar powered lights in the shop (Installation by Mick).

Looking at the Shop profit and loss account on the right of the sheet first. The gross profit, (which is the difference between the cost price of the stock that we sold and the amount we sold it for) is almost £700 , and when we take the expenses of running the shop off that we are left with a net profit of £663. And I would just like to point out that the expenses of running the shop were down this year.

On the Balance sheet:- The allotments themselves have made a loss of £111, however the shop has made a surplus of income over expenditure (Not to be confused with profit, stock level is about £500 down) of £1400, and the development fund has made a surplus of £630 , so we have ended the year with just over £10,000 in the bank, however , not all of the money is ours , we have the balance of the water bill to pay , and cash taken for the potato orders. We are saving money towards pumping out the toilet when that needs doing, there is the money for the key deposits, and the development fund, so taking all that into consideration we have about £4900 which we could spend if we wanted to.

13 From the Treasurer’s report a question about the “muck orders” not being shown. While they were delivered in 2015 the money was taken in 2014. There were no other questions.

14 The audited 2015 accounts were signed off by the Auditor. It was proposed by C Smith that the accounts be accepted, seconded by B 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 2016. Prop to continue C Smith Sec R Cox. All present were in favour.

16 Proposed change to Rule 10. There was a discussion and it was agreed that a change was required but we did need to ensure that there was a “time limit” set on the three warning letters. The addition to Rule 10 (A) was proposed as:

*Where action has been taken, to the satisfaction of the Committee, to overcome the identified issue then the member will not be expelled. However should the member have three “one month” notices served, in a rolling 12 month period, no matter what action has been taken previously, then the member shall be expelled.*  
 Proposed by M Hollingshurst and seconded by R Cox. All present were in favour.

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

18 The officers for 2016/17 were appointed as follows: -  
 Nomination forms provided were completed for the following positions:

| Position          | Nominee         | Proposed     | Seconded     | Vote |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|------|
| Chairman          | W Stone         | A Maynard    | C Smith      |      |
| Treasurer         | C Smith         | J Macquisten | A Maynard    |      |
| Secretary         | A Maynard       | J Macquisten | C Smith      |      |
| Trading Secretary | M Hollingshurst | J Macquisten | A Maynard    |      |
| Committee         | J Macquisten    | A Maynard    | C Smith      |      |
|                   | B Hollingshurst | M Wragg      | A Maynard    |      |
|                   | M Taylor        | A Maynard    | J Macquisten |      |

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        |          |          |      |
|                  | C Clements   |          |          |      |
|                  | K Simpson    |          |          |      |
|                  | D Gray       |          |          |      |
|                  | T West       |          |          |      |
| Good Life Editor | M Macquisten |          |          |      |

19 AOB:

- a) “Get Well Cards” were discussed and it was pointed out that some plot holders have not received any. It was confirmed that when information on plot holders, who are not well, is made available then action is taken. It was confirmed that communications has sometimes not been successful. It was reported that M Stubbs had given thanks for the card an flowers.
- b) The meeting was informed that there is to be an award made, at the harvest event, for the “Most improved and well kept plot”.

20 The date for the first committee meeting of 2016 is 10.00am at the Site Meeting Room Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April (no clash with football).

21 The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.54pm