

# Highfield Lane Allotments



## Minutes of the AGM held on the 23<sup>th</sup> February 2017

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), K Springer (1674A), J Morley (1725), J Macquisten (1722); M Macquisten (1722), R Cox (1706), M Taylor (1675), G Bock (1677), B Farnsworth (1682) and M James (1727).

3 Apologies received from J Sharp (1679), M Smith (1667) and S Garner (1673A).

4 Minutes of the 2016 AGM were available on the website and by request read out.

5 There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6 The 2016 AGM minutes were accepted: proposed M Hollingshurst and seconded by J Macquisten with all being in favour: The Chairman signed the minutes.

7 There were no correspondence pertaining to the AGM.

8 The chairman reported that he believes the trend these days is to be very critical of ourselves and our achievements. But you need to understand that we are doing extremely well. Lots of other allotments would be envious of us.

We have a nucleus of very good people who have Highfield Lane allotments and this association very close to their hearts, they have worked tirelessly for the good of everyone, without asking for thanks or reward and I am confident that we will be able to add to this band of good people.

You all know the great things you have achieved this past 12 months and I am confident that the next 12 months will be even better.

Leaving here tonight you should all feel very proud of yourselves.

So, on behalf of the committee I would like to say congratulations and a Big Thank You

9 There were no matter arising from the Chairman's report.

10 The Trading Secretary reported that we have had a reasonable year. Unfortunately, there was a break in to the shop so the remaining windows have been secured and solar lighting installed inside. Thanks to Jenny for keeping the rota of helpers organised and for working in the shop: we still need more – any takers? There have been issues related to the location of plots on site. Although it is a requirement of plot holders to have their number displayed many do not.

11 From the Trading Secretary's report the Hon Secretary agreed to compose a plan of plots with their numbers for display in the shop.

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

12.1 Chaddesden in Bloom Account. As you may know we were approached by the Chaddesden councillors last year and asked to look after the troughs on the railings across the road , and the container by the Nottingham Road shops. The Councillors would provide the money for plants etc . Chaddesden Park allotments look after the container on Cherry Tree Hill and somewhere else.

The account is a simple list of income and expenditure . The money is completely separate from the association's money. The councillors have provided £100 and we have spend £80.60 leaving a balance of £19.40. We planted the planters in the Spring, and again in the Autumn. Various people watered them.

No questions were raised. The accounts were proposed as accepted by B Hollingshurst and seconded by R Cox. All present were in favour and were subsequently signed off.

12.2 The Allotment accounts. Copies were provided to those present.

On page 1 the allotment income (rents etc) is much the same as last year. CEFAS for those who don't know are the Centre for the Environment , Fisheries and Aquaculture , based in Lowestoft. We provide them with a sample of root vegetables and they check for radiation in the soil.

The allotment expenditure this year is lower than last year. We didn't have a skip this year , we did less maintenance, and half of the roadstone that you will have noticed on the drive is in these accounts and the other half is in the 2017 accounts. (Thanks to Jack for fetching it in his lorry, it has certainly made the job of spreading it much easier) . We have also bought a new mower and got some more gate keys cut.

The shop has sold less than it did last year , although the seed order is slightly up.

Turning over the page and looking at the Shop Profit and Loss account.

We made a profit on sales of £445 which was down from last year (we sold less), however we suffered from a break in on 9th March 2016 when several sheds were broken into as well as the shop with approx £136 of stock stolen. This has resulted in the shop windows (which were violently forced open) being welded shut, making it a darker place and probably putting some people off. Nevertheless, we have an excellent lighting system in there. All of this is summarised on the balance sheet along with a number of liabilities. We are in a reasonable position of being able to meet any unexpected expenditure from our reserves should the need occur.

No questions were raised. The accounts were proposed as accepted by J Macquisten and seconded by J Morley. All present were in favour and were subsequently signed off.

13 From the Treasurer's report there were no questions raised.

14 The audited 2016 accounts were signed off by the Auditor. It was proposed by J Macquisten that the accounts be accepted, seconded by J Morley. All present were in favour. The Chairman, Proposer and Secunder 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 2017. Prop to continue C Smith Sec W Stone. All present were in favour.

16 Discussion pf DCC's Rent Rebate Scheme (due to end Nov 2018) and the effect on 2018 rents. Background: Derby City Council is ending the Rent Rebate Scheme. Currently qualifying plot holders

get 50% of their rent paid by DCC. When the current lease expires the new rent will probably be 50% less than it is now and it will be up to us to decide if a rebate is to be applied and to which plot holders. Or we could treat all plot holders the same. We need to determine this now as the charges for next year will be affected. Colin provided some numbers and what the effects might be. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Management Committee should make the decision at the appropriate time.

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 Allotment Members to appoint new officers and committee from the "members attending". No written nomination were submitted. Therefore all appointments are to be made at this meeting. It was proposed by B Farnsworth that if all existing officers and committee members were in agreement that they should continue:

Position	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded	Vote
Chairman	W Stone			
Treasurer	C Smith			
Secretary	A Maynard			
Trading Secretary	M Hollingshurst			
Committee	J Macquisten			
	B Hollingshurst			
	M Taylor			
	Nominee			
	D Barker			
	K Springer			
	J Morley			
	M James			
	B Farnsworth			
	R Cox			
Good Life Editor	M Macquisten			

In addition; David Gray and Kelvin Simpson were not in attendance and the Hon Secretary would approach them to see if they wanted to continue.

- AOB:
  - a) Thanks were passed to the following people for assistance during the year:
    - David Barker and Adrian Maynard for being co-signatures on the allotments bank account.
    - Walter Stone for phoning round to get people to working parties.
    - Jenny for looking after the toilets.
    - Michael for looking after the site's magazine "Good Life".

20 The date for the first committee meeting of 2017 is 10.00am at the Site Meeting Room Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April (no clash with football).

21 The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.45pm