

Highfield Lane Allotments



Minutes of the AGM held on the 22nd February 2018

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

2 Members attending: C & M Smith (1667); D Barker (1720); A & K Maynard (1719), S James (1727), W Stone (1670), B Hollingshurst (1671); M Hollingshurst (1670), K & P Springer (1674A), J & L Morley (1724 & 5), J & M Macquisten (1722); R Cox (1706), M & H Taylor (1675), B Farnsworth (1682); M Sutton (1682); K & C Simpson (1702D & E); S Radford (1714B); M Gilligan (1700); A & J Hollingshurst (1672); J Pritchard (1673B) and L & R McCauley (1676).

3 Apologies received from J Sharp (1679), S Nicklin (1703); L & A Reeve (1691); R Stringer (1693); R Barber (1715) and S Garner (1673A).

4 Minutes of the 2017 AGM were available on the website and by request read out.

5 There was one matters arising from the minutes: Item 16 Lease. It was confirmed that the main lease expires in November 2018. The shop lease expired in April 2017. There has been no communication from DCC relating to either lease and it expected that neither will be resolved this year, so we will have to wait and see what happens about the rent rebate scheme after 2018.

6 The 2017 AGM minutes were accepted: proposed M Hollingshurst and seconded by R Cox 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 will be repeating much of what was said at last year's meeting. We have been more successful in 2017 than 2016. However, we have been wrong with respect to one item and that is in getting more people to help: it has not happened. It could be that a lot of people on site do not know what we do. It is down to us to talk to people. We do need more helper as, unfortunately, none of us are getting younger! We need new blood. What we can do is get a list, of things that need to be done, together and when we plan to carry out the work.

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

9 There was agreement with the Chairman's report and that there was a lack of communication. It was suggested that a larger Notice Board by the main gate should be installed (which can be read while the gate is being open/closed). In addition, the notices need to be more "eye" catching. Comments noted and would be raised at the first Committee meeting.

10 The Trading Secretary reported that once again we have had a reasonable year. We have had more seed orders in 2017. It must be remembered that the profit made in the shop helps to keep the rents down and 2017 saw an average profit of £12 per plot. The more the shop is used the more support plot

holders have. Thanks to Jenny for keeping the rota of helpers organised and for working in the shop: we still need more – any takers? Training will be provided.

11 From the Trading Secretary's report it was requested that Saturday opening be considered. This was a difficult one as we do have problems in getting enough people to man the shop on Sundays, but it will be considered. A request was made for a notice to be installed that could display the name of key holders that would be willing to open the shop when they are on site. This was agreed to **Action** Hon Secretary to arrange.

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

12.1 Chaddesden in Bloom Account. For 2017 we started the year with £19.40 brought forward from 2016. The Chaddesden councillors (Sara Bolton) provided us with £50. In June we planted the tubs with plants we had for the Chaddesden Carnival, at no cost. In November we planted Polyanthus and Winter pansies and some bulbs at a cost of £57.36, using compost and chicken pellets at a cost of £10. This has left us with a balance of £1.54 to carry forward.

It was reported that at the Christmas wreaths sale at Nottingham Road a "well done" was passed on from the public.

The accounts were proposed as accepted by B Hollingshurst and seconded by J Macquisten. 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. This is mainly because we have not received a water bill yet. Our water supplier changed in April from Severn Trent to Water Plus. They didn't tell us this until October and the new suppliers have not sent a bill yet! We have also purchased some new barrels for the gate lock, which for some reason I have put in miscellaneous expenditure. The shop has sold more than last year, although some of this is the black compost which Jack brought at the start of last year, and the hops that Russell brings. They are very cheap, but he keeps bringing them and these things mount up.

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

We made a profit on sales of £972 which was up from last year (we sold more), and as I have just mentioned the black compost, hops and that rack of things just inside the door that people have donated.

All of this is summarised on the balance sheet which shows we have Eleven thousand pounds in the bank.

However not all of this is ours, and there are many liabilities shown on the sheet, principally the key deposit money. So, all in all we have £6100 available which we could spend if we wanted to.

Thanks, were expressed to A Maynard and D Barker for being co-signature to the account. (Two signatures from three are required on all cheques).

The accounts were proposed as accepted by M Hollingshurst and seconded by R Cox. 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 M Hollingshurst that the accounts be accepted, seconded by R Cox. 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 J Macquisten. All present were in favour.

16 Discussion of the possible purchase of a defibrillator for use on site. This item was first raised a Committee and was suggested that it be considered at the AGM. As rents were being paid those plot holders were asked for their views. The result was that 58 views were expressed and 55 were in favour of having one on site and two were not. Also 56 were willing to contribute £5 towards its maintenance and running cost two were not.

There were some issues raised about keeping one on site:

- No power
- Not being able to keep it stored at the right temperature (above five degrees)

It was agreed that we do need to seek more information and that the Committee would investigate further.

Another issue pointed out was training of plot holders in its use might be required and if so how would this be done?

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	A Maynard	C Smith	
Treasurer	C Smith	A Maynard	J Morley	
Secretary	A Maynard	C Smith	B Hollingshurst	
Trading Secretary	M Hollingshurst	A Maynard	B Hollingshurst	
Committee	J Macquisten			
	B Hollingshurst			
	M Taylor			
	R Cox			
	D Barker			
	K Springer			
	J Morley			
	M James			
	B Farnsworth			
	K Simpson			
	A Hollingshurst			
	C Simpson			
H Taylor				
Good Life Editor	M Macquisten			

All the above was elected by those present. M James was not present, but the Hon Secretary is to confirm or otherwise that he wishes to be on the 2018 Committee.

- AOB:
 - a) It was mentioned that if someone had a medical emergency and rang for an ambulance how would the emergency services get on site with a lock gate? It was suggested that a key be put outside but was dismissed in favour of a list a “Key Holders” being on display. **Action** Hon Secretary to seek out local people who might be willing to be on the list.

20 The date for the first committee meeting of 2017 is 10.00am at the Site Meeting Room Saturday 7th April.

21 The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.22pm