

Highfield Lane Allotments



Minutes of the AGM held on the 20th February 2020

1 In the absence of the Chairman, Mr K Woodward, the meeting was Chaired and opened by the Honorary Secretary Mr A Maynard at 7:30pm

2 Members attending: C & M Smith (1667); D Barker (1720); A Maynard (1719), S James (1727), J Morley (1724 & 5), J & M Macquisten (1722); R Cox (1706), A Hollingshurst (1672); L Pritchard (1673B); E Pooles (1673A); E Turner (1691); D Astle (1712A); H Smith (1712A); B Hollingshurst (1671); M Hollingshurst (1670) and E Taylor (1675).

3 Apologies received from L Murfin and B Farnsworth.

4 Minutes of the 2018 AGM were not available on the website and were read out in full by the Hon Secretary.

5 There was no matters arising from the minutes, but thanks were proposed, by E Taylor, to the "Good Life" editor. This was seconded by J Morley and all present were in favour.

6 The 2019 AGM minutes were accepted: proposed B Hollingshurst and seconded by A Hollingshurst with all being in favour: The meeting Chairman signed the minutes.

7 There were no correspondence pertaining to the AGM.

8 The meeting Chairman reported that there was no report to be presented.

9 To discuss any matters arising from the meeting Chairman's report. None.

10 The Trading Secretary reported that this year has been about the same as last year subject to treasures report.

We have had record orders for "kings seeds" and seed potato orders.

We have continued with "Durstons" farmyard manure which proved popular last year.

I would like to thank all those who helped unload lorry deliveries and helped in the shop. Also, thanks to Jack for collecting stock in his lorry.

A big thanks to Jenny for keeping shop rota going and to those who help keep shop open you know who you are. We could not do it without you. I shall be training four new people for the shop and if successful we might try Saturday opening.

Lastly my thanks to Barbara for keeping me going.

11 No items from the Trading Secretary's report were raised.

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

The allotment income (rents etc) is about the same as last year.

The rent and affiliation taken in advance is the rent collected in October-December 2018 for the 2019 year. So we can tell from the rents taken in year figure that we have had some new plot holders, however of that £966 £714 was the rebate from the city council.

CEFAS for those who don't know are the Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture, based in Lowestoft. Adrian provides them with a sample of root vegetables, and they check for radiation in the soil.

The allotment expenditure was slightly more than last year. We have sorted out the water bill and paid it up to the end of the year. For those of you that don't know there was a problem with the switch of suppliers from Severn Trent to Water Plus with both assuring us that we need do nothing. Eventually Water Plus registered us as a new customer and started billing us last year. This meant that we hadn't paid anyone for water for two years. Just in case they decide to bill us for those years the committee have decided to set aside the sum of £1300 as a contingency.

We have purchased a defibrillator for the site, and it is stored in the meeting room in the fridge. The key to the meeting room is the main gate key so you all have access. We have also purchased a picnic bench to replace the rotten one on the wildlife garden. This is recycled plastic and should last 20 years. These were paid for out of the development fund and some £440 out of general funds. The development fund was money given to us by the Show and Events committee to improve the allotment for members. This has over the past years enabled us to erect the canopy by the container on the lower car park, paint the shop, and put the roof on it and install the solar lighting there. We have relined the pond and surfaced the area outside the shop, as well as the picnic table and the defibrillator. I should like to express our thanks to the Show and Events committee for this.

The shop itself has sold slightly more than last year and the seed order was again a record figure of over £1100.

Looking at the Shop Profit and Loss account.

We made a profit on shop sales of £956 which was up from last year, and we made £259 from the seed order discount. The profit on shop sales is slightly misleading as it includes the sale of donated items, and I think if I remember correctly, we some black compost to sell, thanks to Jack. It also includes the some of the advance potato orders, which seem to have gone thru the till as sales. All of which inflates the profit margin.

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

However, this includes £2300 in advance rent and affiliations. The water contingency as mentioned earlier, and the key deposit money. The development fund is empty. So, all in all we have about £7700 available to spend.

The new Lease with Derby City Council starts in April 2020:

- Rebate has finished.
- New rent is £100 per acre so it is £457 per year (it was £910 per year, however we received a rebate of approx. £700, so effectively the rent has increased by £240 per year.)
- The site is on a 10-year lease and the rent will increase in 2022 to £150 per acre. (£685)
- It will increase again on 2026 and 2029 by the RPI figure for the January of that year.

The total amount of money we need to raise each year varies.

- The amount of water you use depends on the weather. If you can collect and use rainwater it does help a lot.
- The amount we spend on maintenance also varies, depending both on what needs doing, and if anyone is available to do the work.

I have worked out a plan for future rent increases, and I expect there to be a profit for the shop to contribute towards the money. I am aiming for the rent to go to 15p per metre in 2022 and 15.5p in 2028. However, it is something that we need to keep under review as we go on, but to put it simply the more profit we make in the shop the less we need to increase the plot rents.

Barclays Bank in Allenton is closing on 15th May!!!!!!

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

14 The audited 2018 accounts were signed off by the Auditor. It was proposed by C Smith that the accounts be accepted, seconded by R Cox. All present were in favour. The meeting Chairman, Proposer and Seconder signed the accounts.

15 The Treasurer thanked Sue James for her work as auditor. Sue has agreed to carry out the duties of auditor for 2020. C Smith proposed the appointment to continue and all present were in favour.

16 Discussion of the purchase of a card reader. Following a survey of plot-holders and the finding reported to the June 2019 Committee Meeting it was decided then to return the item to the AGM. Three questions were put to plot holders:

1) Pay by card or Cash: 31 for Cash 10 for card or either.

2) Willing to pay for reader etc.: 5 no and 5 yes.

3) Willing to help in shop:

One comment made related to the information provided relating to the cost which was a one-off cost not annual. Following a discussion, it was proposed by A Hollingshurst, seconded by D Astle that we leave it for a year. In favour 10 nil against. **Action** Hon Secretary to include item on 2021 AGM Agenda.

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

19 The Allotment Members to appoint new officers and committee from the "members attending".
Written nomination was submitted for the following positions:

Position	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded	
Chairman	K Woodward	A Maynard	A N Other	
Treasurer	C Smith	A Maynard	M Wagg	
Secretary	A Maynard	C M Smith	M Wagg	
Trading Secretary	M Hollingshurst	J Macquisten	B Hollingshurst	
Committee	J Macquisten	B Hollingshurst	M Hollingshurst	
	B Hollingshurst	J Macquisten	M Hollingshurst	
	R Cox	A Maynard	M Wagg	
	J Morley	J Macquisten	A N Other	

The remaining appointments are to be made at this meeting. The Secretary was asked, at the last Committee Meeting, to remind people that should three meetings be missed, without a reasonable excuse, then that person would be deemed to have resigned from the committee.

Position	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded	Vote
Committee	D Barker			
	A Hollingshurst			
	E Pooles			
	D Astle			
	H Smith			
	E Turner			
Good Life Editor	M Macquisten			
Toilet Tech	J Macquisten			

All the above was elected by those present.

20 AOB:

a) From Patrick Creaney. "Wood burners seem quite popular now and I've seen shops selling bags of wood. Would it be viable to have a wood pile like there was in the autumn, where plot holders can leave old decking boards, planks, posts etc that could possibly be chopped up, bagged & sold? This

was discussed and wood would need to be seasoned (left to dry for at least 18 months) having a dry storage area would be a problem. Proposal not seconded.

21 The date for the first committee meeting of 2020 is 9.00am at the Site Meeting Room Sunday 22nd March.

21 The meeting was closed by the Acting Chairman at 8.35pm