

**Horspath Allotments Association
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 13 November 2019
At 8.00 pm in the Morgan Room, Horspath Village Hall
Confirmed Minutes**

Present: Fiona Smith, Rob Judges, Tim Rowse, Catherine Riley, Chris Pym, Chris Goss, Nigel Webb, Melissa Swan, Judy Westgate, Peter Ewart, Mike Pink, Paul Patterson, Mary de Jong, Paul Stevenson Gaetan Staples, Sophie staples, Lyn Drury, John Drury, Ann Lee.

19. Apologies

Ray Jackson, Becky Webb, Anne Lee, Judy Westgate, Sonia Araujo Keene, Mike Keene, Bob Swan, Julie Riley, Barry & Hilary Franklin, Peter & Sheila Frankum, Geoff Rutherford, Sonia & Mike Keen, Kathryn & Phil Goodliffe, Steve & Jo Turnbull.

20. Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2018.

Re Treasurer's report, the minutes stated the wrong date of 2019. It should be 2022 when the plot fees return to £34.00 per year.

The numbering on the minutes were out of alignment and corrected.

Confirmation that the minutes were an accurate record after amendments.

21. Matters arising from previous minutes.

21.1 Item 12: 8.2 2016 – Fruit trees update

The Chair confirmed that no fruit trees had been planted. Chris Goss and Chris Pym had cleaned and sprayed plot no 4 and it is now workable and would be offered as such.

21.2 Item 12: 8.3 2016 – Interactive website

The Chair confirmed that a HAA website had been made free of charge. Minutes of the HAA meetings and social events will be added. It was suggested that planting distances and seed depth be added to the website as useful information. The Chair asked for any requests for uploading to the website to be sent by email to her so that she could pass it on to the website creator. **Action: Fiona Smith**

21.3 Item 13: – Maintenance work:

Stone pit application for ride on mower. The Treasurer reported that the money had been received from Stone Pit and a receipt had been sent. The Chair stated that the Sit on Mower had been purchased.

Machinery Servicing. Notices. The Chair reported that notices had been made.

The Chair confirmed that the notices had been made for the machinery, safety notices and instructional notices. The Chair confirmed that most of the machinery had been serviced and put away for the Winter.

21.4 Item 14: Treasurers Report. Stakeholders and rent review.

It was confirmed that the stakeholders do not have to pay rent for their plots until 2022 just membership and rents will not rise until 2022.

21.5 Item 16– Development of site:

Entranceway. The chair reported that a quote had been obtained.

The quote was for £5,200 to develop the driveway. The committee felt that this was too expensive so it was agreed that the Association would do the necessary work.

The Chair confirmed that once the weather was compliant then work could be started on the driveway. A drain would need to be added. Help with shuttering and hardcore would be needed. Ready-mixed cement would be ordered. The driveway would be unavailable during this time and likely to be so for 24 – 48 hours afterwards. Security cameras would be put up at the same time as the driveway work.

22. Chair Report

Thank you all for your continued support of the HAA. We have said goodbye to a couple of old members and welcomed new ones. I would like to formally thank the committee for their continued service and support to the HAA. Thanks to Chris Pym for his continued support to the HAA and its members and for maintaining and servicing the machines plus all the other maintenance work he does by way of mowing the tracks, strimming areas, preparing areas for social events, arranging and supervising the hedge cutting, plus lots of other ways too numerous to mention.

The weather this year gave us some new challenges, but what a brilliant year for some crops, particularly potatoes. Some of the plots looked amazing.

Plot vacancies:

There are 2 people who have registered interest. The Diocese has been in contact to confirm that legal costs for another lease will need to be drawn up. I will go back and ask if we can just have an amendment to the lease.

Maintenance and site improvements:

Driveway. We have plans to repair the driveway as soon as we have a spell of weather conducive to the work. We will need a working party and intend to do it in stages. Further details to follow.

The hedge cutting has been done this year.

Security Camera's. Still to do. We have the equipment, so when we have the working party, we will add this job to the list.

Annual Change of security code on lock has been done.

Litter bins, not the success I thought they would be. But a few have been utilised. If you can think of any uses for them, let me know. Litter bins can be returned to the council if not needed.

Water:

The water tanks have sunk, which has given us a few problems regarding water pressure at the top part of the site. Eventually, we hope to have more tanks in situ, but it would help if people could collect and store rainwater on your individual plots, to put less pressure on the water supply we have in peak season. This year we had a long hot dry summer, and the tanks emptied quickly with no chance to completely refill as everyone was watering and the flow slowed a bit, although it never stopped.

Can I remind people that not everything needs watering, in fact a lot of crops survive without watering, and watering can lead to problems, such as roots staying near the surface instead of growing down into the soil to look for water. We are very lucky to have this wonderful water source, so let us practice responsible watering during hot

dry spells and remember it is for everyone, so only water when necessary and use watering cans instead of hoses when water is in high demand.

Machinery:

New ride on mower. It is a lovely machine that does a great job. Please do not throw stones onto paths and tracks, as this damages the blades, which are costly to replace. Servicing of machinery: All the machines have been serviced and emptied of fuel for winter storage.

Container:

The container is now quite full, storing the HAA machinery and items for social activities etc, as well as a few machines owned by plot holders.

We have purchased some sacks of Lime, 25kg bags, for people to purchase. Cost £5 a bag. These are stored in the container, and if you want a bag next year, just ask when the time comes for you to use it. If you want smaller amounts, we may be able to sell 5 x 5kg.

Stonepit Charity.

We invited the committee of the Stonepit Charity to visit the site and have a look where the money they donated has gone. They were impressed with the site and what we have done and stayed to talk to the members present. I explained our future plans regarding the additional plots and registering our interest in the field adjacent to us if it should ever become available.

The Stonepit is a great resource for which we are grateful and hope for continued support in the future.

Socials:

BBQ's, we had a few good ones this year, thanks to Cath's organisational skills. The Noisy Neighbours came and gave us a great afternoon/evening on Sunday 15th September. Thank you to all who came along.

No Bonfire night – due to inclement weather this year.

Christmas party in village Hall on Friday 13th December with the Noisy Neighbours. £10 adults and £3 children. a ticket. Contact Cath for tickets.

Village Show:

Thank you to all the volunteers, committee and judges on another successful show. Carry on doing what we are doing, but more helpers is always welcome. It is not onerous, but very gratifying. Dog show very successful. 39 dogs!

Plot 27 - Non viable. Communal Orchard.

23. **Treasurers Report**

The accounts were circulated.

It was suggested that the accounts be split into the HSS and Village show as they appeared together in one document.

The Treasurer was asked if there were reserves for machinery upkeep. He confirmed there were not reserves allocated for this. It was agreed that an Asset Register

needed to be created for all equipment with estimates of when they would need replacing. This could then be used for allocating some of the budget towards.

Action: Rob Judges

There was a discussion about bringing in a charge for some of the equipment. It was agreed that the Rotavator would be offered at £5 per hour, with fuel to be purchased on top. There would need to be a log of hire.

Action Fiona Smith

24. **Election of Officers and Committee Members**

Chair – Fiona Smith

Vice Chair – Nigel Webb (Nominated by Fiona/Rob)

Treasurer – Rob Judges (Nominated by Fiona/Steve)

Committee member – Steve Turnbull

Committee member – Tim Rowse

Committee member – Cath Riley

Committee member – Chris Pym

Committee member – Melissa Swan / Chris Goss

Secretary – Vacant

All were confirmed as above.

25. **Any other business**

The Chair asked Cath Riley if she could organise two social events in June and July 2020 so that the Stone Pit Charity could be invited along. **Action: Cath Riley**

A request was made about contacting the holder of Plot 1 as the plot needed attention, it was left to go to seed and causing nuisance to neighbouring plots. The Chair confirmed that she would write to him. **Action: Fiona Smith**

It was suggested that a note be put on the plot contract form to say that the plot should be probably maintained and not left overgrown with weeds. **Action: Fiona Smith**

The committee thanked the Chair for all her hard work over the year.

26. **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next AGM meeting will be on Wednesday 18 November 2020 at 8pm. Venue: Horspath Village Hall.