

**Horspath Allotments Association
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 14 November 2018
At 8.00 pm in the Morgan Room, Horspath Village Hall
Confirmed Minutes**

Present: Fiona Smith, Rob Judges, Tim Rowse, Cathy Riley, Julie Riley, Lindie Pink, Mick Pink, Geoff Rotherforth, Chris Pym, Mary de Jong, Ray Jackson, Lyn Drury, John Drury, Peter Franklin, Barry Franklin, Hilary Franklin, Peter Ewart

1. Apologies

Jo Turnball, Ray Jackson, Nigel Webb, Becky Webb, Anne Lee, Judy Westgate, Sonia Araujo Keene, Mike Keene, Chris Goss, Melissa Swan, Bob Swan, April O'Brien, Paul Pattison, John Bennett, Marc Bridges, Gordon Clarke, Phil and Kathryn Goodliffe, Susan and Graham Diggle.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2017.

Confirmation that the minutes were an accurate record.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes.

Item 8.6 2015 – Children's swing/Social Area

It was decided that a children's swing would not ideally be placed in the area above the social area as this area would need regular maintenance, in keeping down the nettles, and brambles etc and it is out of sight of parents unless they went there with them. The Chair confirmed that this would be left for a later date.

Item 8.1 2016 – All weather track

It was confirmed to put this on hold for the time being and think about it in the Spring.

Item 8.2 2016 – Fruit trees

It was suggested and agreed to plant 5 different fruit trees on plot 4. Everyone could then share the fruit. The Treasurer agreed to purchase the trees this year. **Action: Rob Judges**

Item 8.3 2016 – Interactive website

The Chair confirmed that her original contact was no longer available and that she would have to make new enquiries about creating a website for the HAA. **Action: Fiona Smith**

It was noted that Chris Goss had expressed an interest in helping to update the web site once it had been created.

The Chair confirmed that the HAA did have a Facebook page.

4. Chair's report

The Chair formally thanked the Committee for supporting her in her role as Chair.

The Chair said that considering the year had varied weather and long periods of heat, that the water system in place had not run out at all this year and this was a great outcome.

The Chair confirmed that there was no spare plots available. But she added that there were 3 plots that are not useable due to them having challenging conditions..

Site improvements

The Chair confirmed that a rotavator had been bought with the Stone Pit Charity money. The donation was also for improving the entrance drive, which has still to be completed. Quotes are being obtained at the moment.

Village show

The Chair thanked the organising Committee and judges on the 2018 Village show adding that it had been a great success. The date for next year's show is Saturday 7 September 2019. The Chair also stated that helpers and judges are always needed so to let the organising committee know if anyone would like to help next year.

It was suggested that a stand be set up at the next village show on the allotments and how to become involved in the committee.

Maintenance work

The Treasurer confirmed that he would send a receipt to Stone Pit to confirm the money had been spent and also include a thank you letter. **Action: Rob Judges**

The Chair confirmed that the 20 October 2018 has been a very productive day where many jobs were completed. These had included cutting the front grass, the top track, checking the water systems, cleaning out the container, checking the toilet, clearing the top path of shrubs etc, and removing unwanted non-horticultural trees.

The Chair thanked Chris Pym for servicing all the machinery and draining fuel and changing the oil in preparation for winter storage. It was suggested that a notice be put on all the machinery to confirm that there was no fuel inside. **Action: Fiona Smith**

The Chair suggested that the HSS ask Stone Pit for a donation of £4.5k to buy a ride on lawn mower so the tracks and paths could be kept in order. **ACTION: Rob Judges**

If the money was secured the Committee felt that technical support/expertise was needed to purchase a ride on lawn mower. Also it was suggested that a rota could be set up and training provided for the grass cutting.

Social events

The Chair reported that there had been a few good BBQs this year. She thanked Cath Riley on behalf of the Committee for organising them. Cath Riley confirmed that she would organise a Christmas 2018 event. It was hoped that there would be more events next year.

5. **Treasurers report**

The Treasurer confirmed that full membership money had been received for 2018 and was now accepting 2019 rents and membership.

Stakeholders of the allotments have only been paying £10 per year as they each paid a lump sum to obtain the lease land 10 years ago. From 2019 the full amount would be reinstated to £34.00 per year. This included £14.00 membership. The Chair confirmed she would notify stakeholders and that a rent review would probably take place next year.

Action: Fiona Smith

The Committee asked that the Diocese be contacted about the HSS land as an agreement would be up in 10 year's time and this would be in 2019. Perhaps a marketing or business plan could be produced with ideas such as increasing the allotment area size over time.

6. **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

7. **Proposed development of the site**

After several unsuccessful attempts to repair the drive the Chair stated that she was waiting for a quote to come in. The Committee suggested another local contact also and a quote would need to be requested. **Action: Fiona Smith**

The Chair asked for a volunteer to help her install the security cameras, one by the container and one by the main gate. These are dummy cameras. Together with signs it was thought this would try and curb unwanted people from entering the site. **Action: Fiona Smith**

Chris Pym confirmed that the hedge cutting was in hand and he was awaiting a price for it.

8. **Any other business**

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

9. **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next AGM meeting will be on Wednesday 13 November 2019 at 8pm. Venue: Horspath Village Hall.

The meeting came to an end at 8.53pm.