

## **Annual General Meeting – Timsbury Allotments**

**4 December 2017**

### **Minutes**

Bob Clements (acting Chair) welcomed all 14 members present to the AGM, held at the Short Mat Bowls Club, annexed to The Conygre Hall.

#### **1, Apologies**

Received from Jeremy Ward, Mike Hawkins and Rob Jamieson

#### **2. Minutes of 2016 AGM**

Previously distributed and agreed as a true record. (Copy on Notice Board in allotment field)

#### **3. Matters Arising**

None.

#### **4. Finance**

Tim Nobbs (Treasurer) distributed the Balance Sheet and reported Income & Expenditure, and Bank Balance.

#### **Income**

Rents from plots, £990.00 for PC with £400 from PC for field maintenance.

#### **Expenditure**

Insurance £82.93, covering the communal equipment only.

Notice Boards x 2, £207.72

Tool repairs and parts £103.40

Tool hire, £20

Roundup, £20

New locks, £31

Whisky to Haydn x 2 (for hedge trimming), £38.50

#### **Balance at Bank, £242.87**

Chair thanked Tim for his efforts on a well-considered and presented set of accounts.

#### **5. Tenancy changes/waiting list**

New Tenants - Nick Lazell (18a), Daniel Hilton (23), Bruce Bell (32), Amanda Edmonstone (44), John Tanner (46 top), Jeanne Cockle (55), and Felicity Groves (68)

1 plot currently available (40), plot 63 being relinquished by Christmas by Pauline Attride, plot 5 soon to be vacated (Rob Jamieson).

Waiting list of 7, including 1 (Rob James) who would like a ½ plot.

## 6. Field Maintenance

Hedge whips to be removed early in the New Year.

Des Baugh has agreed to help with looking after the orchard - a fair system is needed for fruit distribution.

Grass cutting going well - a rota was suggested - discussion on purchase of a new power motor.

Shed clear-out needed.

New notice boards up and running - a request for easier access, i.e. loosening of top and bottom tabs.

Rotting telegraph pole in NE corner needs to be looked at.

Thanks to everyone for their help in looking after the field.

## 7. Election of Officers

Re-elected for one more year and agreed as below,

Chairman – Bob Clements

Secretary- Sandra Heward

Treasurer – Tim Nobbs

General Committee – Steve Hill; Mike Passingham.

## 8. AOB

Flower Show stall, £43.

Handbook handover - There was a suggestion of putting it online instead, Bill to be asked to download the package onto a CD so this can be done.

Trees - There was a discussion regarding the pine trees. It is recognised that this is an issue that needed to be addressed and was being pursued. It has been indicated that the PC is likely to pay for work considered necessary. It was agreed that three quotes would be needed in the event of a decision being made.

Polytunnels - As it says in the latest Handbook, this is not encouraged by PC mainly for safety reasons.

Manure - This was delivered from the stables in bags and put by plot 33 by the Lippiatt Lane end of the field. Thanks to Barrie for manure delivery.

Rent day Jan 8th, 7.00 - 8.00

Sandra read out a report headline of activity on and around the allotments:

**Jan** - First committee meeting - Chris Gittins (new PC invited) gave comprehensive view of PC responsibilities for the field - equipment and bonfire discussions - new noticeboards agreed.

**Feb** - Trees complaint (anonymous) received - meeting down in the field for affected plotholders.

**Mar** - Two new notice boards installed - our thanks to Terry Walker and Dave Nash.

**Apr** - Second committee meeting - Chris Gittins attended - compost bays proposal by PC - trees survey and possible next step - possible social afternoon in September - water butt offer.

**May** - After surveying two possible sites for compost bays the decision was made not to go ahead with the PC proposal.

**June** - (busy sowing)

**July** - (busy sowing/harvesting)

**Aug** - Horts show stall made £43 for the SW Children's hospice.

**Sep** - Taste of Timsbury show but no stall from us this time - September get-together cancelled due to bad weather forecast.

**Oct** - Third committee meeting - Chris Gittins present - PC could fund tree removal with work considered appropriate, decision in abeyance for the moment - rent raising strategy discussed.

**Nov** - AGM - thanks to everyone who helped out with maintenance tasks over the year.

The raffle for a "rent free" plot for the year for AGM attendees was won by Richard Coles, plot 17.

Chris Gittins attended and addressed the meeting regarding the PC's decision on rents. He reported that rents would remain the same for the next year but likely to rise to £20/year by 2020. Some allotmenters were critical of this and felt there was no justification for a rent rise, as it had been reported that the original costs for the field taken on in the early 1970's, had now been settled and there was no outstanding debt. The concerns related more to the principle of the allotment rents (approx £600) going into PC funds, possibly for general use in the village. Chris reassured the meeting that although the money was not formally ring fenced for allotment use it was necessary to maintain a surplus in funds in case a need arose for any substantial payout in respect of the allotments. He used examples of legal fees in case of a claim, new fencing and car park repairs which the PC would be responsible.

The Chair thanked Chris for his attendance and his report on the PC decisions.