

Annual General Meeting – Timsbury Allotments

3 December 2018

Minutes

Bob Clements (acting Chair) welcomed all 6 members present to the AGM, held in the Myra Hayward room, in the Conygre Hall.

1. Apologies

Received from Mike Passingham, Roger and Rosemary Tranter, Tony Shaw, Kate Allport and Brian Mogford

2. Minutes of 2017 AGM

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

3. Matters Arising

Chris Gittins' report for the rent figures was clarified. 2019 rents are going up by £2.50 in 2019 and then by further £2.50 in 2020 (pro rata for smaller plots).

4. Finance

Tim Nobbs (Treasurer) distributed the Allotment Accounts which reported Income & Expenditure and the Bank Balance. It was noted that the PC money, £400, did not come in until the beginning of August this year so a request will be put in to ask for it earlier, ie. ASAP after April 1st.

Income

Rents from plots, £925.00 for PC with £400 from PC for field maintenance.

Expenditure

Insurance £82.93, covering the communal equipment only.

Tool repairs and parts £90.64

Mower (2nd hand) £80

Fuel £20.60

Roundup, £10.79

New padlock £14.99

Landscape fabric £39.99

Whisky to Haydn (for hedge trimming), £16.00

Balance at Bank 31/10/18, £257.89

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

5. Tenancy changes/waiting list

New Tenants - Nicholas Booker (plot 52 top), Maggie Horrill (plot 5), Kate Owen (plot 63), Kate Baker (plot 29), David Bailey (plot 39), Nick Donnelly (plot 19) and Lisa Tanner (plot 49)

3 plots currently available (23, 44, 68)

Waiting list of 5.

We need to invest in more black fabric to cover the vacant plots.

Problem with plot 52 top (with the fruit trees) as nothing has been done by the new tenant. Dave Nash said he would trim it if it goes vacant again.

6. Field Maintenance

Orchard maintenance - a suggestion for more fruit trees.

Grass cutting going well.

Plot 68 - the fruit cage is beyond repair so will have to be dismantled at some point. Roof sheeting is needed for the shed on plot 68.

General vacant plot clearance - it was agreed to ask Chris Gittins if the Payback team could be asked to do it

Thanks to Haydn for cutting the Lippiatt Lane hedges - he got his usual whiskey.

Remaining rubbish bags still need to be taken away so Withy Mills farm will be alerted.

Rubbish dumping - this was seen happening up by the small gate at the SW corner of the field. As Christmas trees will not be collected until Jan 28th 2019, we need to keep an eye out for possible dumping of these in the field, hence the need to remove the rubbish bags by the Lippiatt Lane entrance so as not to encourage dumping.

Ditch clearance needed along northern edge of the field - it was agreed that this is the PC's responsibility so they will have to be alerted.

Thanks to everyone for their help in looking after the field: Terry, Dave, Barry, Jeremy, Steve, and Mike.

7. Election of Officers

Bob Clements announced he was standing down as chair as he has done it for two years but he was still happy to stay on the committee. The other three were re-elected for one more year and agreed as below:

Chair - vacant

Secretary- Sandra Heward

Treasurer - Tim Nobbs

Committee members - Steve Hill, Bob Clements.

8. AOB

Flower Show stall, £40. Taste of Timsbury stall, around £19. Both amounts were delivered to Mike Saunders for the SW Children's Hospice.

Manure deliveries - to be looked into.

Discussion on Bill's 'grumble' about the £600 'profit' that the PC makes from the rents after handing back the £400 for maintenance. As we heard at last year's AGM(see * below), this 'profit' is not ringfenced for allotment use only but goes into a general pot for the village, which Bill is strongly against. It was pointed out to him that even if

the 'profit' was ring fenced, there is no way it would cover the tree removal costs and also the ditch clearing (see item 6). Bill also suggested that the field admin be handed back to the PC. However it was again pointed out that little or nothing would then be done on the field, and that maintenance costs would probably go up with resulting rent rises. In the end, as the committee stated, the PC is the landlord and we are the tenants. By doing the field maintenance ourselves, we keep the costs down. The discussion ended with agreeing to keep the status quo for next year but to review the situation in the future.

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

Jan - Rent night

Feb - Car park hedge trimmed - whiskey to Hayden

Mar - "the Beast from the East" - first committee meeting - handbook uploaded onto village website - accounts, too, where they can now be audited.

Apr - a cold and wet month

May - beginning of the hot dry summer which went on into the beginning of September.

June - (busy sowing - harvesting of soft fruit)

July - (busy sowing/harvesting veg and soft fruit)

Aug - Horts show stall made £40 for the SW Children's hospice. PC's money finally came in after prompting....

Sep - Taste of Timsbury show - cold and wet - made £19 for the SW Children's Hospice

Oct - Second committee meeting - Chris Gittins' email re rent rises and reasons for discussed. Bank balance £343.84

Nov - putting plots to bed - harvesting of winter crops

Dec - AGM

The raffle for a "rent free" plot for the year for AGM attendees was won by Terry Walker, for just one of his plots.

Rent day Jan 7th, 7.00 - 8.00

*Rents would remain the same for 2018 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, for general use in the village. 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. Examples are legal fees in case of a claim, new fencing and car park repairs which the PC would be responsible.