

Annual General Meeting – Timsbury Allotments

2 December 2019

Minutes

Bob Clements (acting Chair) welcomed all 13 members present to the AGM, held in the Bowls Court room, in the Conygre Hall.

1. Apologies

Received from Mike Passingham

2. Minutes of 2018 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 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 as usual.

Income

Rents from plots, £1,018.00 for PC with £400 from PC for field maintenance.

Expenditure

Insurance £82.93, covering the communal equipment only.

Mower blade £22.99

Fuel £12.15

Weedkiller, £13.50

Landscape fabric £66.00

Tim stated that we should make sure that we spend our money, ie. rather than use the multi-tool for cutting the hedge, contract out the job to a professional as we have done before. Having quite a big bank balance doesn't exactly justify the £400.

After a discussion on the rent rise (to £20), it was pointed out by a couple of members present that consultation on the rent rise was not adhered to and that a letter should be sent to the PC asking for a rent table review by Dec 31st. (However, see section below from PC Finance Committee minutes re allotment rents). It was felt that the PC also needs to clarify what they do with the extra £600 as, contrary to our demand, it is not ringfenced.

Balance at Bank 3/12/19, £475.37

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

5. Tenancy changes/waiting list

New Tenants - Mark Brinkworth (plot 57), Samuel Crudge (plot 23), Austin Sage (plot 44), Emma Poole (plot 63).

3 plots currently available - 10 (Tranthers are moving), 39 (Bailey is moving), 51 (Edgell is giving up due to poor health)

Waiting list of four made up of one new application and three plotholders who would like a second plot. Chris Wall (plotholder) is digging over plot 29 for Richard Baker and will probably take it over next year.

Plot 52 top (with the fruit trees, now vacant) has been covered. Dave Nash has offered to keep plot 52 bottom tidy

6. Field Maintenance

Orchard maintenance - plot 68 fruit cage has been dismantled and the fruit bushes within will probably now be incorporated into the orchard.

Plot 68 - it was suggested that a load of topsoil be sourced preferably from The Penny Company, to be contacted in the spring of 2020.

Grass cutting - Mike Passingham is OK to carry on mowing the 'lanes'.

Bonfires - Bob reiterated the need to keep the bonfire in the NE corner of the field under control and to only light it when the wind was coming from the south. There was a question as to whether bonfires should be banned completely for climate change reasons. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

Lippiatt Lane Gate - Dave Nash and Terry Walker will tackle this as it is dropping again. The cost would probably be no more than £20+.

Hedgecutting - Quote to be sought.

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

7. Election of Officers - it was agreed to keep the status quo:

Chair – still vacant

Secretary- Sandra Heward

Treasurer – Tim Nobbs

Committee members – Steve Hill, Bob Clements, Terry Walker.

8. AOB

Flower Show stall, £80. The amount was delivered to Mike Saunders for the SW Children's Hospice.

It was suggested that the 'rent free' plot should go to Sandra rather than hold a raffle. All agreed. Sandra, surprised, accepted with thanks to everyone.

Rent day Monday Jan 6th, 7.00 - 8.00

Para from the PC Finance Committee Meeting, Monday 23rd Sep 2019.

3. To set Allotment rents for the following year

Receipts and expenditure for the allotments since 1976 were presented and reviewed. It was noted that the allotments are £58 in debt to the community. It was noted that it is expected that substantial costs are expected to be incurred in future to be paid for by the PC. As a result, on a vote there was unanimous support to recommend to the Parish Council that the allotments should cover their costs in the long term and so additional income should be raised in advance to cover the expected costs. So, the PC should continue with its plans since 2017 to increase the Rent from £17.50 to £20 a plot in 2020. It was noted that this is still very good value compared to many sites elsewhere.