

# **WILDMOOR ALLOTMENT HOLDERS' ASSOCIATION**

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018  
Abingdon United Football Club, Northcourt Road, 7.30 pm

## **APOLOGIES –**

Tony Hammond, Pauline Dewhirst, David Bartlett, Laura Lyford, Mike Turner, Bernard Fletcher

## **MINUTES from AGM 2017 –**

Minutes of the AGM 2017 were accepted unanimously as a true record.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT -**

Tim Hunt gave an entertaining talk, introducing himself to the members, as the new chairman this year. He gave grateful thanks to Alex Armstrong on behalf of the whole membership for all his hard work as Chairman over the past few years. Also thanks to all the committee for their hard work over this year.

- A new mower has been purchased.
- There are plans to improve the fence to deter deer.
- The new number for the padlock from 1<sup>st</sup> January is 4332, which is the dates of Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932) as everyone knows!!
- Thanks again to Liz Mercer for all her hard work arranging the BBQ and also her helpers.

## **SEED SECRETARY'S REPORT -**

Through our membership of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG), Wildmoor Allotment Holders Association is sent catalogues from Kings Seeds. The seeds in the catalogues are at a 20% discount plus the Association receives a 15% discount on bulk orders. Every year around 50 members place orders worth around £2000, which yield a profit to the Association of around £300.

Please contact John if you have not received your fruit bush orders.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT -**

Income –

- Rents and deposits remain very stable
- We now have 3 contractors using the site to deposit bark chippings and grass cuttings, both of which are useful to plot holders.
- The BBQ this year made a smaller amount than last year - £20; £10 was donated to St Michael's Church for the loan of tables etc (thanks to Jane Cadogan) and £10 to the Food Bank, this year's charity.
- Due to Lloyds mishandling of online access to the accounts, the bank offered compensation and expenses payments amounting £260 to be paid either to the treasurer or to the Allotments Association. As our

current assets are in a good state the committee had agreed to add this to the Foodbank donation.

#### Expenditure -

- Rent - The Town Council increased the rent this year to £874.32, but it is still heavily subsidised.
- Water Charges - Castle Water took over the account and it is not correct this year. We have been charged less despite clearly an exceptional year for water use. Liz will challenge this all later on and has set aside £650 for the moment.
- Site Maintenance Costs – Total £566 this year, on new mower, mower repairs, protective gear for spraying (thanks to Douglas Brown for doing this).

We have ended with a slightly increased excess of income over expenditure this year of £889 and our overall reserves are now £7166.10. There is a figure of £2166.50 held separately as members' deposits, to be returned to plot holders should they leave with their plot in good condition.

#### Discussion points –

- deposits – these are held in trust for ploholders and are not part of the Association's assets
- fence costs – the town council has to be asked for particular items for the grant. The chair agreed to ask specifically about the proposed fencing costs.

#### **LETTING SECRETARY -**

We have a total of 142 plots, made up of 70 full plots (includes some people who have two adjacent half plots) and 72 half plots. At the moment we have 4 vacant half plots and no full plots vacant. There is no-one on the waiting list at present.

- There have been 23 lettings over the year: two plots have been let twice. This is nearly 20% of our total plots.
- There are a lot of new young families on the site this year.
- Please could plot-holders ensure that their plot number is clear and visible from the road.
- Plot inspections have been carried out monthly.

#### Report from National Allotment Society's AGM –

This was attended by Liz Mercer and Julie Edge. Julie gave a quick summary of two workshops they attended after the main AGM.

- Kings Seeds – gave a presentation. Key points were that all seeds apart from parsnips have germination standards, and if they don't germinate well it is often because we haven't stored them well! Also try germinating squash and pea seeds on damp tissue paper first before planting out.
- No-Dig – this system can be used to improve soil structure and reduce weed growth, because of mulching each year. See video recommended <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HATC3rG6NbQ> plus many others

## **GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION -**

David Cooper (Secretary) gave a short presentation on what this means for the Association. In summary our new Data Protection Policy (on the website) gives a clear indication on what data is held and by whom and how. Please read this to ensure that you are aware.

Also we will not be sending out emails for any reason other than Association business, and particularly not adverts.

## **CHANGES REQUESTED TO ASSOCIATION RULES –**

1. A change was requested to accommodate the changing date of the AGM. Rules currently state the third Wednesday in November, but as we can no longer use Peachcroft, and the Football Club does not have availability on Wednesdays, the change will state – ‘...during the third week in November’ This was proposed by David Cooper and seconded by Liz Franklin, and was accepted by unanimous vote.

2. A change was requested to Rule 7 to clarify the issue of driving speed. This will now read – ‘drivers must proceed at a maximum speed of 5 mph and in a manner that avoids annoyance to others and damage to the roadway’. Speeding has been an issue noted by many members, and especially now there are small children around the site, must be reduced. The change was proposed by the Chairman, Tim Hunt, seconded by Liz Franklin and accepted by unanimous vote.

## **LIABILITY INSURANCE –**

- Currently the council requires employers and public liability insurance which the Association obtains through Blue Fin insurance. Liz Mercer (treasurer) has been looking into whether we should have individual allotment holders insurance, which can be obtained free from the National Allotment Society. This would cover £50,000 liability insurance on individual plots.
- At present we are only covered under the Blue Fin system for injuries to anyone in the communal areas. And we are not covered for personal cover for accidents to others or ourselves on our own plots.
- There was a lot of discussion around this debate. Alex (previous Chairman) said that he had always been led to believe that the current cover DID have individual liability, and at present our Welcome Pack for new ploholders states that they are insured.
- Several scenarios were discussed – children, equipment left on sites, possibly negligence, increasing litigation costs etc.
- At a vote, the majority of the members agreed that they would like the committee to ensure that individual ploholders DO have liability insurance.
- Liz agreed to look further into this whole area.

## ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS -

The Chairman thanked Alex Armstrong for all his hard work over the years.

Chair	Tim Hunt	willing to continue	Proposed by Julie Edge	Seconded by Liz Franklin
Secretary	David Cooper	willing to continue	Tim Hunt	Colin Franklin
Treasurer	Liz Mercer	willing to continue	Tim Hunt	Julie Edge
Lettings Secretary	Julie Edge	willing to continue	Andy Lovegrove	Gill Davenport
Seed Secretary	John Hardie	willing to continue	Julie Edge	Deborah Cross
Groundsman	Andy Lovegrove	willing to continue	Liz Mercer	John Tattersall

One member volunteered to join the committee as a general member – Andrew James, proposed by Liz Mercer and seconded by James.

All were approved by general votes.

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Size of trees – after some discussion it was agreed that trees should be allowed so long as they do not cause a nuisance to neighbours.

2. Best plots – as judged by the Mayor, across all the allotments in Abingdon. Congratulations to all the winners, who all came from Wildmoor allotments –

Best Full Plot – Patrick and Tina Boyce (90), runner up Gillian Hemsley (72)  
Best Half Plot – Chris Beach (14b), runner up John Annett (14a)  
Special commendation for beginner Pauline Dewhirst (107)

Both winners received trophies from the Chairman

The meeting was closed at 8.30pm and a date for the next AGM will be in the third week of November 2019.