

Chairman's Report from Rob Harrower

I took over Plot 85 in November 2019 and attended last year's annual general meeting and in December was invited to become Chairman. In view of the COVID19 situation there will be no AGM 2020 hence this report from the committee.

My thanks and I am sure from everyone else to Dave Cooper who has resigned as Secretary after 6 years graft. Also thanks to Tim Hunt, the retiring Chairman. I would also like to thank the rest of the Committee for the effort they have put in during this time in view of the lack of meetings and 'get togethers'. Veronica McLaughlin took over from Dave but unfortunately had a change in circumstances and resigned from this post and also gave up her allotment. Alistair Lee has recently volunteered to be the new Lettings Secretary and Julie Edge has taken on the Secretary role permanently.

All other Committee members have agreed to stay on, and it has been decided to carry on with this committee until it is possible to hold an Annual General Meeting. Andy Lovegrove is awaiting an operation on his knee and Vic Butler on Plot 45 has volunteered to assist Digger with Groundsman work until Andy is mended.

Following my appointment in December it rained. It rained in January, February and March. I had just planted my rice when the sun came out with a vengeance and baked the clay into bricks. We had a storm that blew over a shed and a poly tunnel took to the air. Over 20 sheds were entered by thieves early in April and various tools and metal parts were stolen – this theft was reported to the police. Then COVID raised its head and some people had to shield and isolate. This meant that some of the plots got a little bit overgrown but generally most plots were maintained to a good standard.

Congratulations to Melvyn Nash whose Plots 9b and 10a was judged by the mayor of Abingdon to be Best Full Plot at Wildmoor. Runner up were Colin and Liz Franklin on Plot 19. The best half plot was John and Angela Naisby of Plot 80a, not only best half plot at Wildmoor but the Best of the three Abingdon Allotments, the runner up for Wildmoor was Lynn Barrand of Plot 76b. John and Angela also won the Frosts Cup which I presented to them, a poor substitute for the Mayor in his ceremonial role.

It was decided that we would continue with monthly inspections but to follow National Allotment Society advice not to dismiss any plot holder for lack of maintenance while COVID was raging but to see if anyone needed assistance or help. Unfortunately due to a disciplinary matter of some long standing one plot holder was dismissed and his plot re-let.

The Committee's advice to anyone struggling with their plot is first to consider whether downsizing is an option or if it is due to illness or accident, can a member of family or friend help temporarily. If that is not possible please let the Committee know and maybe we can rustle up some help from other members.

We had the usual allotment niggles, cars occasionally speeding damaging the track, the dropping of paper tissues and plastic gloves near the two gates, the rabbit gate

left open, the security gate left open, paths between plots whittled down for that extra couple of carrots. There were occasions when bonfires caused problems to neighbouring plots. The allotment is a place of recreation, relaxation, exercise and mental well being at this difficult time. You all as plot holders make the rules so let us try and keep to them at all times.

Other issues -

- Thanks to Andrew James for his ongoing work resurrecting the deer fence. The outside estimates are very slow coming through to him. Ian Cade is going to organise working parties should we have to erect the fence ourselves.
- Digger is in the process of checking and repairing the rabbit fence.
- Our strimmer was stolen early in the year and we intend to purchase a new Stihl strimmer/brushcutter. This purchase will take place when we have a secure place to keep it.
- Two of our old mowers are now beyond repair and are ready to be disposed of, if anyone wants any spare parts speak to Digger, so the remaining good mower doesn't get dismantled.
- Road repairs are in hand, we have had two attempts but unfortunately had to cancel at the last minute. These will be reorganised if we have decent weather after lockdown.
- Thanks to Eric Nuttal for his work on the taps, fixing through the year any that were dripping and servicing them before winter.
- Thanks also to Digger for his often unseen work that goes on throughout the year.
- Thanks to Liz Mercer, Treasurer whose report is included. Two items of extra expenditure were agreed by the Committee -
 - There were extra funds paid out for reducing the height of trees on the west boundary that were causing problems.
 - One plot holder, who had his plot taken from him under the disciplinary regulations, had left a large pile of rubbish and debris, including stone, windows and other debris of an unknown nature on the plot. The Committee decided to pay for the removal of the rubbish as a one-off arrangement. When plots are vacated in future we will look to take a stronger line if a plot is left in a poor condition.
- We had discussions regarding the security of our plots and decided it was down to each plot holder to take whatever steps they thought necessary and if it involved a camera /video it should only take images of their plot.

Best of luck to all plot holders for the next growing season.

Treasurer's Report from Elizabeth Mercer

Income has remained very stable.

Expenditure shows that water charges, as always, are the largest part of our outgoings. It was even more expensive this year as the water rate has increased and usage was high for large parts of the summer.

No maintenance costs have been reclaimed from Abingdon Council at this time but we hope to be able to negotiate some grant before April.

No invoice for the lease has been received covering the second six months of the year so that will appear in next year's accounts.

See accounts on the next page

Wildmoor Allotment Holders Association

		2019				2020	
£	£	£		£	£	£	£
	£2,881.00					£2,847.00	
	-£21.00	£2,860.00	Income			£0.00	
		£180.00	Rent receipts				£2,847.00
		£0.00	Less: refunds				£172.00
			Deposits forfeited				£80.00
			Grass tipping fees				£10.00
	£66.55		tap key				£1.00
	-£66.55	£0.00	Donations,				
		£1.93	Less: donation to Food bank				
	£2,287.70		Bank interest (net)				£1.64
	-£1,908.11	£379.59	Amount received from seed sales			£3,193.39	
			Less: Cost			-£2,641.90	
	£135.00		Surplus to Association				£551.49
	£143.56		Receipts for BBQ				
	£0.00	-£8.56	Less: costs				
		£40.00	Less: Charitable donations				
		£3,452.96	chqs written off				£10.00
							£3,673.13
		£918.04	Expenditure				
			Rent - Abingdon Town Council				£459.02
	£516.20		Water charges				£1,232.98
	£158.40	£674.60	tap keys				
		£402.00	NSAGL membership				£393.00
		£174.79	Bluefin (Jelf) Insurance				£174.79
		£86.40	Purchase of keys & locks				£203.40
	£44.99		Weed membrane				
	£1,323.00		Posts for deer fence				
	99.73		Site maintenance			25.17	
			Tree-felling			£225.00	
			Rubbish clearance			£250.00	
	£35.72		Mower repairs				
			Site maintenance				£500.17
	£1,503.44		less grant from Town Council				
	-£1,648.74	-£145.30	Bal of cost to Association				
		£30.25	Agm				£79.54
	£24.98		Administration			£40.73	
		£24.98	stationery			£36.00	
		£16.78	website				£76.73
		£2,182.54	Trophies				£16.78
		£1,270.42					£3,136.41
			Operating Surplus/Loss for year				£536.72
			Refundable deposit transactions for year:				
	£360.00		Plot deposits received			£360.00	
	£146.00		Less:			£81.00	
	£180.00		Deposits refunded			£172.00	
		£34.00	Deposits forfeited				£107.00
		£1,304.42					£643.72
		£9,332.60	Excess of income over expenditure for year				£11,287.02
		£650.00	Balance brought forward				£11,287.02
		£11,287.02	Plus water provision from last year				£11,930.74
			Balance carried forward:				
	£82.08		Petty cash			£335.36	
	£7,341.58		Current account			£7,624.32	
	£1,662.86		Deposit account			£1,663.56	
	£9,086.52					£9,623.24	
	£2,200.50		Deposit account - site deposits			£2,307.50	
		£11,287.02					£11,930.74

Secretary's report from Julie Edge

David Cooper was the secretary for the first half of the year, and he dealt with all of the Pandemic literature, keeping us up to date with what we could and couldn't do.

He has done a wonderful job for the Association and we have all thanked him enormously for all his hard work. Please do too if you see him around.

I took over last month after a short gap.

The only major change since then is that I have updated the website, which was becoming difficult to manage as technology has moved on since it was first developed.

Again enormous thanks are due to **Julian Annells** for setting the website up, and for keeping it running for the past many years.

The new website is at <https://wildmoorallotment.com>

Please look at it regularly and make any comments, send in content, photos etc to me at wildmoorallotment@gmail.com

The Facebook page run by **Andrew James** is also well used so please check this out at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/333592260698562>

As you know, the Barbecue was not possible this year, and nor is the AGM (hence this long report) but we hope very much to have the usual activities running next year.

Committee meetings -

These have not been possible in the usual way this year. We have met once in person at the end of the plots socially distanced, but we have been keeping in touch around plot inspections.

If you are interested in joining the Committee then please let me know.

As we cannot have the usual votes this year, the Committee have all agreed to remain in post.

Lettings report from Julie Edge

At the start of last year (November 2019) there were 9 people on a waiting list, and on the whole it had remained stable for a couple of years, with plots becoming available within a few months. With the Coronavirus Pandemic this year, the waiting list ballooned to a maximum of 37 people at one stage, now down to 32. This is in keeping with the national picture, where people have been very keen to grow their own veg, but it does mean that the wait may be two years or more.

Plots have been very well maintained on the whole as visiting the allotment was often the only way of getting out of the house for a good few months! Plot inspections were carried out formally from July (once the full lock-down was over) and three dismissals were carried out for long-standing issues. No dismissals were made because of the pandemic.

Very few plots were vacated early in the year but more recently we have had the more usual number of changes. During the year from the last AGM, there have been 20 plots changing hands; 5 of these were moves (either down-sizing or equivalent up-sizing) or family changes, and the rest were new members. This is fewer than in previous years.

While there is such a long waiting list, it was agreed by the Committee that it would not be possible for existing ploholders to take on more space, especially if they already hold a full plot.

We have had to alter two boundaries between plots this year, where half plots have become unequal in size. Please watch that your plot does not expand to fill the space available!

Alastair Lee has taken over as the Lettings Secretary from October 2020, so please address any further questions to him on alastairlee39@hotmail.co.uk

One final plea –

PLEASE ensure that your plot number is placed at the road end of your plot and is clearly visible.

Seed Secretary Report from John Hardie

This year I received the largest number of Seed Orders from members in the 9 years I have been Seed Secretary.

68 members submitted orders worth £3193.20. Because of the discount we can then claim off Kings Seeds this generated a profit of £551.45 for our accounts.

The corresponding figures for last year, which had been the largest up until then, were 58, £2287.70 and £379.59.

The seeds arrived on the 9th November, a week or so later than usual. I was told this was due to a larger number of orders that were submitted earlier and COVID restrictions on the number of employees.

The distribution of seeds obviously had to be different this year in the absence of an AGM and with the lockdown in force. I offered members the choice of leaving their seeds in their allotment sheds on two particular days or picking them up from our doorstep at a mutually arranged time.

John Hardie

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