

Annual General Meeting 2015 The Wrightson Allotments

Minutes of meeting held at the offices of Farnfields Solicitors
on Thursday 16 April 2015 at 7pm

Attendees

Chair: Derek Beer

Susan Lacey, Sue Adams-Lingwood, Margaret Lewis, Tom Staveley, Richard North and John Buckland (new allotment holder)

Apologies

Larry Whitty, David Luck, Eric and Alison Olson, David Ridout, Hilary and Gary de Bie and Elizabeth Staveley

Welcome

John Buckland was welcomed to his first AGM.

Bank Balance

The bank balance was confirmed at £1807.12.

Minutes from 6 March 2014 meeting

The minutes were read out by Tom Staveley. He omitted the additional parts that he had wanted to put in and the additional parts that Sue Adams-Lingwood wanted to insert as they had not been agreed, but just agreed that they would finalise the minutes at the agreed original format and they were, therefore, agreed and accepted.

Matters arising

- 1 Trustees - Tom Staveley read out the email from The Charity Commission which Susan Lacey had received and also Larry Whitty's reply to this was read out. Larry's email referred to the accounts he had not seen but, in fact, they had been sent to him but they were re-sent as he had, obviously, missed receiving them. Sue Adams-Lingwood and Margaret Lewis agree with Larry Whitty that you cannot be a trustee for some matters and not for others. Derek Beer explained that for other council matters, where he is a trustee, if there is any conflict of interest he has to leave the room and not be involved in any voting, and this could happen. However, the decision was made that we should have three non-allotment holders as trustees. Currently, Derek Beer and Susan Lacey are the only trustees who are not allotment holders, and Derek Beer will see if he can find a third trustee in the next thirty days. Suggestions were made to ask James Thrift and also John Parker and Derek Beer will approach them. It was agreed that we would aim for a trustees' meeting on the last Thursday in May at 7pm at Farnfields office to discuss further.
- 2 NSALG membership resignation - Tom Staveley confirmed that we had now resigned from this.
- 3 Sue Adams-Lingwood reported that she had spoken to Clare at Shaftesbury Town Hall about the tree situation. She had also spoken to Sandy at North Dorset District Council. Clare had said that the Highways Department will take responsibility for the tree but SL then reading out the exchange of correspondence with James Bennett at the Council. Susan Lacey advising that she will go back to James Bennett and see if we can have a site visit.

There are three trees indicated by green dots on the plan that Susan Lacey has. The sycamore tree is the tree on St Johns Hill and the position of this is as equally close to the highway as the other tree on Bimport. Hopefully, a site visit can be arranged to discuss with Highways.

- 4 Water butts – Sue Adams-Lingwood reported that she had applied for funding from the National Lottery. She had costed out new water butts, a shed and a gate and Lottery funding had been awarded, although no funds had been received yet. A suggestion was made that we should send a thank-you letter to Louise Plumridge at Task Force who helped with the application. Derek Beer to write to Louise. Sue asked for someone to take on sorting out getting the shed, gate and water butts. We need to clear the site and posts need to be taken out etc. Derek Beer will see if he can get some local help. The allotment holders will put together a list of jobs that need doing and then we can see what outside help will be needed from third parties.

As part of the application for the Lottery funding Sue Adams-Lingwood had to indicate that we would be making the space available to the public. A suggestion was made that we could invite Abbey School to come to the allotment. There is a gardening club there that may be interested in seeing what happens at the allotments. In addition, a plant sale asking for donations could be arranged.

- 5 Grass cuttings – Richard North was thanked for his work in keeping the grass cut. He asked if everyone could keep the pathways clear so that he doesn't catch nettings and stones etc when he is cutting the grass around the paths.
- 6 Allotment agreements – Susan Lacey will add a clause in asking allotment holders to keep the pathways clear and then circulate the agreements.
- 7 Sue Adams-Lingwood also suggested that we explain to allotment holders that they will risk losing their plot if they did not keep the plot up-together and comply with health and safety requirements. It was agreed that we would say this to people annually when asking for the rent etc.
- 8 Rent/annual costs – the Town Clerk has been asked about paying for the insurance for the allotments and Derek was asked to explain to the Town Clerk why they should pay. Having justified the reasons for the request the Town Clerk is going to consider the matter. Renewal is not until January so we don't have to worry until then. At this stage, therefore, it is very difficult to assess what the annual costs are, such as insurance, petrol and water. In addition, until such time as we know the final decision of the Council on the maintenance of the trees, it was agreed that the current charge per plot should be £14 per half-plot with a proviso that it could be increased to £18 per half-plot if we cannot get any assistance from the Council. This would be a decision made by the trustees in May.
- 9 Trust structure – as we will now be having three trustees going forward the positions of Treasurer and Secretary need to be filled. In the absence of any objections from other parties it was suggested that Tom Staveley should be Treasurer and Sue Adams-Lingwood should be Secretary and the roles were accepted by both parties.
- 10 Next meeting – date of next general meeting was made for 3 March 2016 at 7pm at Farnfields office.