

## **The Wrightson Allotments**

Minutes of AGM held at The Town Hall  
on Thursday 3 March 2016 at 7pm

### **Chair**

Derek Beer

### **Apologies**

Larry Whitty, Don Houghton, Elizabeth Staveley and Katherine Gowing

#### **1 Welcome to new tenants**

Derek welcomed Jonathan Gowing who was a new tenant of the allotments.

#### **2 Bank balance**

Tom Staveley confirmed that the current bank balance was £1708.73 but £233.27 was due to be paid to Sue Adams-Lingwood in reimbursement of expenses for the water butts and guttering. Sue Adams-Lingwood queried why the bank balance had gone down and Tom Staveley confirming that the accounts were all on the website for her to see and she asked for a hard copy which Tom Staveley said he would issue to her. He confirmed that the tree report had been paid for and this was queried by Sue Adams-Lingwood as she wondered who had authorised this, bearing in mind that she had found insurance which did not require a tree report.

*Note - on checking through past emails the tree report was in fact arranged on 5 November and carried out on 16 November. It was only after this that Sue Adams-Lingwood contacted Susan Lacey about SWCA insurance. In any event, for this year it was decided by the trustees that we would renew insurance with Shield as we did not feel we were comparing like with like, as there were exclusions and the excess was different, and time became of the essence. It was a joint decision of three trustees meeting, namely Susan Lacey, John Parker and James Thrift. Therefore, although the tree report was paid for in December it became a liability in early November.*

#### **3 Letter of complaint**

Tom Staveley confirmed that Mike Madgwick had written a letter of complaint. This had been dealt with. Mr Madgwick has said that he would like to do the trimming of the hedge on the allotment side from now on.

#### **4 Matters arising**

Trustees - Sue Adams-Lingwood asked for a list of the trustees and their telephone numbers and it was agreed that it would be circulated with the minutes (see attached).

Tenancy agreement and bonfire endorsement – Susan Lacey circulated copies of the old tenancy agreement. However, on noticing that the rent showed £20 which was not going to be the rent for 2016, Susan Lacey said she would amend these and send them out with the minutes.

Update – Sue Adams-Lingwood confirmed that the water butts and guttering work had all been completed. There was a trolley \* inside the shed which can be used by all allotment holders for moving manure and other items.

\*(Tom, not sure what it is?)

The ground underneath the six new water butts needs levelling and it was suggested that Sue goes back to Chris Bishton to level the land. If he cannot do it then Derek Beer may know someone who could assist.

Lottery funding - Tom Staveley raised the issue that as part of the application for the Lottery grant we were supposed to stage events at the allotment. Apparently, Abbey School have been approached but they cannot fit it into their timetable. Approximately £30 is still available from the Lottery money which will be used (on ?). The trustees thanked Sue for arranging the Lottery funding. Records of how the money was spent need to be kept for seven years. Tom Staveley will also add to the website that the charity received Lottery funding.

Further funding – James Thrift and Derek Beer said that they cannot get any funding at the moment from the Council because one of the trustees of the Town Council is being a little difficult. This trustee should retire in May so they may be able to try then. John Parker said that Taskforce may be able to help but if the money is only needed for tree maintenance then Taskforce is unlikely to help. Sue Adams-Lingwood to make an application to Awards for All for a new mower and electric fencing for the plots to keep the badgers off. The cost would be about £2700. Tesco are also operating a green disc donation system similar to Waitrose. They are looking for applications from local projects so Sue Adams-Lingwood will look to do this.

Trees - the dead-wooding does not need to be done at the moment.

Insurance – Sue Adams-Lingwood asked for an effort to be made to find new insurance that satisfied the trustees, which would be cheaper than we are currently paying in order to keep the rent down.

Rent – the trustees said that the rent was being set for 2017 at £20 for a half allotment.

A thank you was given to Richard North for his grass cutting, and to Margaret Lewis for arranging the seeds order.

## **5 Any other business**

John Buckland asked whether the allotment holders had ever made a joint manure order, but in fact there was not much interest in this so he said not to worry and he will deal with his own ordering of manure.

Val Baker said she is finding her large plot too much and discussed about going into quarters. The trustees had no objection to people going into quarters, if this is what people wanted, and so allotment holders will contact the trustees if they find other parties to share allotments with them.