

The Wrightson Allotments

Minutes of AGM held at The Town Hall
on Thursday 2 March 2016 at 6pm

Chair

Derek Beer

Apologies

Tenants: Larry Whitty & Angela Forrester, Erik & Alison Olsen, Elizabeth Staveley, Margaret Lewis, Sue Adams Lingwood, Jonathan Clunees-Ross & Katherine Gowing

Attendees

Tenants: Donald Houghton, Hilary de Bie, David Ridout, Richard north, Valerie Baker, Tom Staveley, John Buckland, David Luck.

Trustees: Derek Beer, John Parker, James Thrift

1. Update on waiting list

There are nine names / name pairs on the waiting list dating back from 4th May 2014.

2. Bank balance & Treasurer's report on change of bank

Tom Staveley confirmed that the current bank balance was £1584.72 but £100 of this is reserved for works on fencing for the 2016 Lottery Award project.

The trust is in the process of applying for free banking from NatWest, now that CAF Bank has started charging. Forms have been filled and are ready for submission with the proviso that NatWest may demand to see a Governing Document; we are hoping that the 1970 Jocelyn Wrightson Conveyance document is adequate.

Derek Beer proposed that the interim costs for banking should not be borne by Tom. A vote was passed that bank fees should be covered by the trust.

3. Minutes from April 3rd 2016

Minutes drafted by Susan Lacey were read, followed by amendments proposed by Sue Adams Lingwood after the April 14th trustee meeting at John Peel's.

A vote was passed deeming the minutes and amendments acceptable.

4. Lottery Grant Update

An update from Sue Adams-Lingwood was read out by Derek Beer in her absence:

The stock fencing is being replaced on Tuesday 7th March by Mole Country Store. There will be 13 x 10 metre rolls of wiring instead; one for each plot holder to help keep off rabbits / badgers. There will also be 12 bags of manure – one for each plot. There will also be a lock & chain to secure the new rotovator.

It was questioned whether fencing was compulsory. It was confirmed that it is not and that excess wiring might be used on the perimeter if allotment holders did not wish to benefit from the fencing.

Derek Beer proposed a vote of gratitude to Sue Adams Lingwood and Louise Plumridge in their endeavours to win grants from the Big Lottery Fund and working on the projects. There were unanimous thanks.

5. Rents

It was confirmed that the rent for March 2017 is £20 per half allotment. The rent for the year starting March 2018 will be £20 too.

Hilary de Bie indicated that she is keen to hand over the quarter of her allotment, which is close to the sheds, between Catherine Glower's plot and Don Houghton. It was agreed that it should be offered to Jean & Ian Wilkinson, if Catherine & Jonathan Clunees-Ross or other half allotment holders were not interested. First refusal goes to existing allotment holders, who hold less than a full allotment.

No objections were made to the rent.

6. Grass cutting

Thanks were given to Richard Northcote for another year of grass cutting. However, Richard said that he did not wish to continue cutting the grass paths into the next year. Tom Staveley volunteered to take on this role.

7. Trees

In line with his May and November 2016 tree inspection reports, John Parker said that the boundary trees are in healthy condition, and that the sycamore leaning over St John's Hill does not pose an immediate safety threat to the highway. However, the sycamore is neither prominent nor attractive. It casts significant shade over the allotments and could become a hazard in wet weather on the steep bank and listed wall. It should therefore be considered for removal in the next 12 months. Because of the site's conservation area status, John is approaching the county council for permission to fell.

Derek Beer recommended that John's advice should be heeded, bearing in mind John's expertise in these matters. The trustees will work out how to cover the cost.

No objections were made to this, and thanks were given to John for his work on this.

8. Trustees

Derek Beer asked for a vote of approval for the trustees, which was gladly given. The trustees agreed to continue for the next year, but Derek asked that this should be recognised as his last. Derek has been the chair since 1993.

9. Monies

Tom Staveley confirmed that the rent had been collected in full last year and collected rents for 1 x full, 6 x half and 1 x quarter allotment (£170) for the year starting March 2017.

Thanks were given to Tom for his work as treasurer, which was much appreciated.

10. Next AGM

The next AGM is scheduled for 6PM on March 1st 2018, following the *First Thursday of March* tradition.