

Gertie Gale's Allotments

AGM

17th March 2016

Those Present:

Lesley Cottrell	- Chairman
Jo Marshall	- Secretary
Bob Shepherd	- Treasurer
Gillian Lee –Jones	- Site Liaison
Roger Howard	- Plot holder
Andrew Cooper	- Councillor

Apologies

John Cottrell	- Plot holder
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Review of Last Minutes

Chairman went through the last Minutes with the Plotolders present at the AGM and they were sign off.

Election of incoming Chairman and Secretary

Current Chair asked if anyone was willing to come forward as Chair but there were no volunteers from the room.

Judith Arnold kindly volunteered to take over the roll as Secretary.

Election of New Committee

Both Andy Luton and Chris Sanders have said that they are happy to join the committee as supporting members together with Ron Bolton and Andy Newman.

Finances

Treasurer presented a breakdown of costs for the year 2015/2016 and predictions for 2016/2017, copies of which were handed out to plotolders present. The council loan has been received for £1,500 and after all the payments for the water connections there was a surplus of approx. £200 which will be returned to the council in due course.

Another skittles fundraiser has been arranged which will hopefully cover the cost of the loan repayment for this year.

In the bank there is a balance of £264 due to the fact we had a good year for collecting rents, mainly due to Gillian Lee-Jones hard work in re-letting the plots and also charging a one-off deposit to secure a plot and some one-off donations. If a surplus amount can be maintained then there is no need to put the rents up next year.

Rent to remain the same this financial year £30 for a Full plot, £15 for Half plot.

Plot Allocation

Many Full plots have gone down to half plots. Although this will increase the amount of people on site this has not been noticed and the plots seem to be better maintained.

All vacant plots should be filled by April. There are 18 people on the waiting list. If anyone knows of ploholders wishing to give up their plot please contact Gillian Lee-Jones.

Site Maintenance

Roger Howard did a fantastic job of organising the water connections and the ploholders were very appreciative. The digger will be returning on 18th March to back fill the trench, several ploholders present at the AGM offered to come and help.

It is hoped that the water connections will lower the water the bill. The old taps have been left in place on the eastside of the Allotments for ploholders to wash their hands. These must not be used to refill the troughs as they take the water supply from the westside of the site. Roger did emphasise that the taps and troughs must be used correctly and not be used for washing vegetables or refilling troughs.

A site tidy-up has been suggested for the Easter Saturday – volunteers are needed. There is a lot of litter on the site due to high winds we have had recently. If volunteers could bring a green bag to take litter away with them this would be much appreciate. No skip has been ordered so all debris needs to be remove from site by volunteers.

Since a recent Council visit they have complained about the amount of items in the hedgerows and have asked for them to be removed. A ploholder asked if

the Council were going to keep to their side of responsibility and maintain the hedgerows by the Cemetery as a lot of rubbish was revealed when it had been tidied up. Chair confirmed she would check with the Council.

Andy Newman has volunteered to help Gillian Lee-Jones with the site maintenance and the Site Tidy-up and he would be available the following Saturday 2nd April to continue with the Site Tidy-up.

Empty plots will be let so there is no need to clean these up like previous years but concentration will be on the pathways so they are ready for the first grass cut.

A reminder to Plotholders that the tool shed holds Plotholders own equipment and is not there for general use. Several items seem to have gone missing. It was also pointed out the roof of the shed may need re-felting, this will be investigated at the Site Tidy-Up.

Any Other Business

Both Lesley Cottrell and Jo Marshall have stepped down from the Committee as of the end of this financial year.

Lesley has agreed to stay on the Committee but as a councillor rather than a plotholder to make the right ratio of Committee members.

Jo has stepped down as Secretary as she is relinquishing her plot. She has enjoyed her time as Secretary. Judith Arnold has volunteered to take over this role.

A big 'thank you' to Lesley and Jo was received from the plotholders attending.

Therefore the position of Chair is still vacant.

A second Skittles evening is planned for Sunday 24th April 2016. Tickets are £4 and include a Ploughmans supper. It may be a re match with North Weston Allotments – yet to be confirmed. Please contact Lesley Cottrell for details.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Proposed next committee meeting to be held at Eve Wiggan Room, Folk Hall 8pm on Tuesday 28th June 2016.