

Gertie Gales Annual General Meeting 2018.

13th March 2018

Present Andrew Arnold (vice chairman) Judith Arnold (Secretary) Les Curwood (Lettings Officer) Stuart Armstrong,(Treasurer) Roger Howard, A Harrison, Robert O' Dell, Gill Curwood, Sandy Shardlow, Jenny Murray, Dave Rowles, Liz Rowles, Bob Sheppard, Evelyn Grounsell, Guy Britton, Mary Britton , Zoltan Kekesi, Anna Mazina-Scott

Apologies Ann and Nick Tarr, Ron Bolton, Ed Harril , Deb Herbert, June Gregory, Ian and Anne Cameron, John Cottrell, Yoka Ouwedijk

Minutes from the last meeting were accepted and signed by the Vice Chairman in the absence of John, the Chairman. Apologies read out.

Chairman's report – in the absence of John, Andrew suggested that the Chairman's report would be forwarded to the Association once it had been received.

Andrew then thanked the various members of the committee who had served on the committee who were retiring from their posts – Bob as Treasurer, Judith as Secretary, John as Chairman. Further thanks to Chris for the Victorian Evening and to Anne and Ian for the banners. Thanks to everyone over the year for keeping the site in order – much of the site has been looking good for most of the year. Evelyn offered thanks to various allotment holders and Stuart for helping her to keep her plot in order.

Treasures report – Stuart took over the role in December and offered thanks to Bob for keeping the accounts in order. He has sent out the rent bills early as last year and already received many payments.

Surplus at end of March of £350, next year surplus is forecast to be £100. Has kept some by for mowing 4 times during year as not all site down bottom end get mowed at a cost of £400. Also been suggested that the taps above the troughs down farmer side be removed at cost of £50 with the labour ourselves. Evelyn asked whether this was necessary as she had never seen anyone washing boots in the troughs.

Site Lettings report – In the Autumn, there were 2 on the waiting list. Stuart posted on Facebook pages at end of February – 7 successful replies. Only 2 enquiries through web page. Rent requests meant 5 people have given up this year already.

54 full plots, 49 half plots. At present, there are 2 full and 2 half plots with 6 people on waiting list - some viewings this week. So hopefully by the start of April, there will be no vacant plots.

33 lettings last year, 12 of those given up within the year citing family commitments, moving away.

Fliers at Victorian evening did not attract a lot of attention

Website – 5, 6 visitors per day, peaking in January.

Site Maintenance report – Council have been involved in cutting back hedges on Cemetery side and at front. Council promised to cut back large overhanging trees after the summer. Maintenance of cemetery has been passed to a private body who have thought about removing the hedge down that side but there have been objections from the "residents". Shed roof been re felted, mowers been maintained and grass cutting been done by plot holders but a bit patchy. Whips to be put along fencing at bottom and discussion of compost toilet is ongoing.

Stuart been successful in bringing in loads of well-rotted manure from Weston and will bring more as and when. Also getting loads of fresh manure from a chap on Clapton Lane. Les getting clippings delivered when the tree surgeon is passing. No chance of getting manure delivered down the bottom of site as no real access.

Letting of bottom plots difficult because of distance , difficulty and flooding.

Election of New Committee – Stuart was accepted as Treasurer and Andrew asked the floor for volunteers for positions.

Andrew has agreed to stand as Chairman with Anna as Vice Chairman. No volunteers for Secretary or Site Manager. Andrew, Les or Stuart to be point of contact for any volunteers.

Zoltan asked if positions had to be filled by plot holders – yes.

Stuart to send out email with vacancies and job descriptions.

Christmas Fair – £138 raised , £76 pounds cost for banners and leaflets. Banner very useful as made stall stand out and was a one off cost.

AOB – Site manager role is very important as otherwise everyone else has got to take responsibility more for their plots. Judith suggested that mowing could be reduced to 3 times a year - plots are all mowed at start of season and then again just before Portishead in Bloom judging and again at the end. *In between, holders must take responsibility for mowing around their own plots – as agreed in the tenancy agreement. This will help to reduce the costs of running the allotments and therefore the rent.*

Roger to make his own decision on turning on water and will clean out the troughs when he does it.

Security on site question - thefts from Yoka and Jenny sites. Tools have been taken and broken and returned. Also water butt. What advice can be given concerning this? An ongoing problem from time to time. Thefts put off people from investing and taking on the plots. A bin for Jenny to be placed next to the table at the top. (10 E)

Committee to consider applying for planning permission for a small shed at the bottom of the site.

Dates of next meetings: Tuesday 15th May at The Albion