



**Henley on Thames Allotments Association**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**held at 19.00 on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 at Henley-on-Thames Town Hall**

**1. Apologies**

Mayor Kellie Hinton, Mike Hails, Sally McEwen, Dave Eggleton, Gordon McBride, Barry Webb

**2. Presentation of last year's minutes**

The minutes were passed as correct.

**3. Matters arising**

None.

**4. Chairman's Report, incorporating Secretary's Report**

A written report was circulated before the meeting. Dave McEwen reported that Marisa Francini, long standing committee member and current secretary is having to step down for health reasons. He passed on her greetings to all present, and announced that a collection would be made in order to present her with a token of appreciation for all her work. It is hoped that a farewell event can take place when she is well enough to attend. With regards to the sites, he reported that there were 2-3 plots vacant on each site. He noted that turnover was higher than in previous years, and asked to be kept informed of any ideas that would encourage people to stay longer. He informed ploholders that security remained an issue on Watermans, and that installation of an automatic gate was being considered. He noted that deer/pigeons/moles were a particular problem on Greencroft, and that individual ploholders should ensure they protected crops. He reminded ploholders that all water tanks should be covered. The Chairman thanked his committee members and reported that there was interest from potential new committee members from both sites (see item 6). He thanked Henley Town Council for an excellent and productive working relationship, and for their support of the allotments, and added that it was a pleasure to work with them.

**5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts/Appointment of auditor/Payment of honoraria**

Dave Chilvers presented the accounts to the meeting. He noted that all fundraising events this year had performed very well, with increase in revenue from all of them. He thanked local businesses for contributing raffle prizes and Hobbs of Henley for their support for the summer boat trip. The total income for the year was the same as previous year, expenditure increased by 74%. This was possible because of the strongly increased revenue from fundraising streams, and



confidence that this would continue. At year end, the accounts were £600 lower than last year, but still remaining strong. The 2016/17 accounts have been audited by Margot Dapper, who recognises them as an accurate and true record of the finances of the Allotments Association.

*Motion - That the Treasurer's Report and 2016/17 accounts be accepted and that Margot Dapper be appointed to audit the accounts for 2017-18*

*Proposed - Jo Miller*

*Seconded - Robert Durant*

*Passed unanimously*

In previous years, honoraria have been voted to the Secretary, Treasurer, site managers and the Assistant Secretary/Social Committee, in recognition of their time, effort and resources.

*Motion - That honoraria of £100 each be paid to David Chilvers, Doug Richards, Lewis Every, Marisa Francini, Laura Dance.*

*Proposed - Doriana Matthews*

*Seconded - Rob Hutchell*

*Passed unanimously*

## **6. Election of officers**

The following members stood for election/re-election

### Officers

- Chair: Dave McEwen
- Secretary: Laura Dance
- Treasurer: Dave Chilvers

### Committee Members

- Greencroft: Lewis Every (Site Manager), Mandy Taylor (Web Manager), Peter Anderson, Barry Webb
- Watermans: Doug Richards (Site Manager), Anne Sandars (Events Manager); Sophie Pentecost



The Chair has received expressions of interest from two Watermans ploholders, who will attend a committee meeting before deciding.

*Proposed - David Cook.*

*Secoded - Chris Pollard*

*Passed unanimously.*

## **7. Social events report**

Anne Sandars reported on the events that had taken place this year and thanked all those who had supported them, either through helping or by attending. Events had included:

- Spring sowing and planting workshops
- Gardener's Question Time
- Greencroft Spring Wassail
- Plant Sale
- Boat trip
- Produce Sale
- Mikron Theatre evening
- Christmas Dinner

It was hoped that all these events would take place in the forthcoming year, with the addition of the Waterman's Bonfire.

She encouraged anyone who wanted to help with events to get in touch, stressing that it was not necessary to join the Committee to do so.

## **8. Website update**

Dave McEwen reported that Mandy Taylor had volunteered to take over the website (see item 6 Elections), and thanked Sara James for her work over the previous year. He reported that a forum had now been added to the website, and encouraged people to use it for seed and plant sharing and problem solving. He also drew attention to the recipe section, and Pete's Almanac - a local guide to activity throughout the year.

## **9. Presentation of silverware**



- Watermans Best Plot - Mick Blackall
- Greencroft Best Plot - Chris Eggleton
- Watermans Best New Plotholder - David Cook
- Greencroft Best New Plotholder - Cathy Hislop
- Community Award - *to be announced at the joint ceremony(see below)*

There will be a joint presentation ceremony with Henley in Bloom in November.

#### 10. AOB

Nothing had been sent in writing, but the following questions were raised from the floor.

- What can be done about the irregular mowing of the grass on Watermans? May we take it over ourselves?

There has been sickness in the Council Parks Department recently. The Committee will ask the Council to tackle the hedges and the grass as a matter of urgency, but if it is necessary to prioritise they will ask them to focus on the hedges and approach the Watermans Volunteer Group about the grass.

- Is there an explanation for the imbalance of expenditure between the two sites?

This has been the case over the past five years in order to rescue Watermans from dereliction and bring it closer to the standard of Greencroft. As the two sites are now both similarly well maintained, the expenditure should even out.

- How should the ongoing costs associated with security cameras (ie electricity and broadband cabling to the site) on Watermans be met?

One suggestion is a levy for Watermans plottolders.

- May we have a winter load of manure for both sites?

Agreed.



## **11. Date of next meeting**

The next AGM will be held in October/November 2018, with further details to be confirmed closer to the time.