

WALMLEY ASH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WALMLEY COMMUNITY HALL – TUESDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2018 AT 19:30

1. **Present:** - SP (Chair), CC (Treasurer), LB, GC and AS.

Attended by: 23 plot holders

Apologies (Committee) - None

Apologies (Plot Holders) - None

2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 24th October 2017**

The minutes of the AGM held on 24th October 2017 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. **Matters arising not covered on the agenda**

There were no matters arising not covered by the Agenda.

4. **Election of Allotment Association Officers**

The following were proposed and seconded: SP (Chair), CC (Treasurer), BC (Secretary), AS (Fundraising), LB, LC and GC (General Members).

5. **Chair's Report**

SP welcomed plot holders to the AGM.

- i. Following the passing of Albert Benbow, donations had been collected and it was proposed that a memorial garden be established and planted on the site. To be discussed and confirmed at the next Committee meeting. **(Action: JG)**
- ii. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of an Open Day. To be discussed at the next Committee meeting. **(Action: JG)**
- iii. Thanks were given to CH and KH for continuing to keep the toilets clean and tidy.
- iv. Thanks were given to PC for attending to water leaks and resolving the issue with the Ashurst Road gate to enable Western Power to access the site.
- v. A visit by Walmley Infant School staff and pupils was scheduled for 25th October 2018.
- vi. Birmingham and District Allotment Confederation (BDAC) would be holding a meeting at Bordesley Green Allotments on Saturday 17th November from 14:00 to 16:00 hours.
- vii. The toilets and water would be switched off in November after the Volunteer Days (see below) or sooner depending upon weather conditions to prevent and frozen pipes.
- viii. Following the installation of perimeter fencing (see Agenda item 8) two councillors and the Sutton Coldfield Observer would be in attendance on site on Wednesday 10th October to promote the successful Lottery Funded Project – plot holders were invited to attend if available.
- ix. Rent collection dates were confirmed as Saturday 20th October 2018 from 10:00 to 12:00 and Sunday 21st October from 12:00 to 14:00. **(Action: CC)**

6. **Secretary's Report**

SP informed the meeting that attempts to fill vacant plots would be made during the suggested Open Day. Vacant plots would be mentioned in the Sutton Coldfield Observer item on the perimeter fencing.

7. **Treasurer's Report** (information withheld as not for public viewing).

8. **Lottery funded perimeter fencing project**

Following the successful bid for lottery funding, AS reported the following:

- i. **Final cost** – the perimeter fencing was installed during the period 24th September to 4th October with the final bill of £12,000. The contractors removed 1.5 tons of waste which cost £725.00 (several loads had to be removed using a smaller vehicle as it wasn't possible for larger vehicles to gain access to the site). Fire bricks from an old incinerator were uncovered during clearing which will be utilised on site.
- ii. **Balance left** – approximately £700.00 will be carried forward to next year.
- iii. **Control of access to the spinney** – (information withheld as not for public viewing).
- iv. **Advertising the project** – it would be mentioned in the Sutton Coldfield Observer that, of the £130,000 grants issued for projects in Sutton Coldfield, WAAA had received £10,000.

9. **Overgrown areas and plots – Volunteer days**

The proposed volunteer days for tidying overgrown areas and plots were 17th, 18th and 19th November 2018 from 10:00 on each day. Plot holders were asked to spare an hour or two during these dates to help with tasks to improve the possibility of letting vacant plots. The purchase of further supplies of polythene for covering treated plots to prevent weed growth was considered.

10. Water metering and costs

SP reported that metering on the South Staffordshire (SS) and Severn Trent (ST) water meters was up to date (see Agenda item 7).

11. Suggestions for external funding sources

Suggestions from plot holders regarding external funding ideas and sources of income should be put to the Committee for consideration, eg, Lottery Funding, Sutton Municipal Charities and any other Grants.

- i. One suggestion was for installing a communal poly tunnel on one empty plot. **(Action: AS to get prices/quotes in Spring 2019)**
- ii. Another suggestion was for installing a couple of beehives. These would have to be located in a quiet area with suitable fencing at least 2 metres high. **(Action: AS to explore further)**

12. Date and venue of the next Committee meeting

The next meeting of the Committee would take place on Saturday 24th November 2018 at 10.30 in the WAAA site hut. Plot holders were welcome to attend the meeting or put concerns in writing in the post box so they can be discussed.

13. Any other business

- i. **Nicky Bradley, BCC** - SP reported that, after 19 years of service, Nicky Bradley, BCC Allotments Officer, would be leaving on 31st December 2018. A new officer, Bernie, was currently undergoing training for her new role. Nicky should be copied into emails until Bernie has completed her training. The BDAC should be contacted with any tenant or site issues so they have an overview.
- ii. **Wood chippings** – discussion took place regarding any future deliveries. It was necessary for someone to be present to allow access to the site to offload the chippings but it not always easy to get the delivery at a convenient time. The purchase of a petrol shredder was discussed (estimated cost c£700) but there were health and safety concerns to be considered around who would operate it
- iii. **Contact email addresses** – plot holders should confirm their email address to new Secretary, BC, to aid efficient communication **(Action: BC to update communication list)**
- iv. **Data protection** – group emails should be sent using the BCC function to avoid email addresses being revealed to others.
- v. **Condition of plots** – generally, there appeared less commitment to maintaining plots than say 10 years ago but it was noted that some new plot holders had done really well with the plots they had taken over.
- vi. **Repaired fencing** – plot holder, JN, had repaired fencing adjacent to the new fencing. It was now more robust and should help to keep intruders out.
- vii. **Dead trees in the spinney** – it was noted that some of the dead trees in the spinney would have to be removed if they became more hazardous.
- viii. **Social evening plans** – if plot holders wished to organise any social evenings, they should develop a plan with costings to share with the Committee for checking suitability and viability.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:55