

The Diamond Jubilee Allotments Society

Cartersfield Lane, Stonnall

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 19th June 2014 7.30 pm

Venue: Youth and Community Hut, Main Street, Stonnall

Minutes of the first Annual General Meeting of The Diamond Jubilee Allotment Society

Attendance (as signed in)

Roger Bunting	Mick Mullan
John Elkin	Debra Orgill
Catherine Fisher	Debra Pastel-Tullah
Roger Fullard	Alan Seddon
Neil Hall	Jill Street
Valmae Hassall	John Street
Elizabeth Hassall	Christos Tsemilis
Antony Jude	Terry White
Wendy Hunter	Jo Williams
Tony and Dot Horton	Richard Worth
Stuart Jones	Carolyn Davis
Heather Liddington	Julie Steward
Jane Manning	
Miles Matile	

1. Welcome Introduction

Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance

2. Apologies

Dot Middleton
Steve and Sarah Cowley
Elaine and Stuart Davies
Keith Jones
Sally Holmes

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 20th March 2013 and Matters Arising

All members had read the minutes and there were no matters arising

Minutes Proposed – Valmae Hassall

Minutes Seconded – Wendy Hunter

4. Chairman's Report

Please see attached report

5. Financial Report and Accounts

A copy of the report is included in the minutes

Proposed – Miles Matiles

Seconded – Roger Fullard

Unanimously agreed

6. Election of Officers and Committee Members

The chairman advised that the following committee members were willing to be re-elected and nominated for the following positions:

Jill Street – Chairman
Debra Pastel-Tullah – Treasurer
Liz Hassall – Secretary
Keith Jones – Vice Chairman
Tony Horton – Committee Member
Antony Jude – Committee Member

Alan Seddon did not wish to stand as a committee member for this year so the chairman asked for volunteers. The following plotters were willing to join and were nominated in the following positions:

Roger Fullard – Committee Member
Jo Williams – Committee Member

All positions were carried

7. Any Other Business

Roger Fullard felt there was a divide between committee members and plotters and a suggestion was made to swap phone numbers with an adjacent plot holder to discuss any issues which may arise. This was suggested on an informal basis and to make communication more accessible. **Tony to place phone numbers in the shed of committee members.**

Some members wished to clarify the committee protocols, specifically relating to storage units on site. Richard Worth

- Discomfort and concern with decisions been made and not discussed adequately i.e. Why did the committee not ask the membership?
- Felt a “them and us” situation has arisen and had resulted in much disappointment
- The structures were less unpleasant than other structures and it was a shame that the decision had been made with no reference to membership. The decision had caused distress and consternation for some members
- There was a question of correspondence not going through the chairman
- Questioned the democratic nature of the society and felt that the friendly nature of the allotment had been lost
- Thanked the committees work over the last year

Roger Fullard suggested that the committee approach the council to amend the tenancy in the future.

Stuart Jones and Mick Mullan highlighted that there were a number of issues on site such as toolstores and trees and it was felt that the committee made decisions without consulting the membership

The chairman mentioned the land agents proposal of 1.2m and reported the history of the toolstores. She also pointed out that the Conditions of Tenancy were taken out by all plotters with Shenstone Parish Council and the rules were set by them, not by the committee. They are the Lease holders and they are responsible for any decisions taken.

After much discussion, and suggestions from Christos Tsemelis, Richard Worth, John Street and Debra Pastel-Tullah, it was decided to do the following:

Committee would contact all membership and ask them to vote for, or against the increase and for the committee to petition Shenstone Parish Council if the majority voted to increase to 1.2m

Wendy Hunter was disappointed that the committee decided to open the allotments for Stonnall Open Gardens and felt the committee should have asked members.

It was also reported that a member was watering a plot with weedkiller and placing the can back in the trough.

There was a issue with keys being stuck in the bottom gate so a member offered to swap the locks over

Valmae thanked the committee for their hardwork over the past 12 months

The chairman asked for volunteers with the maintenance

Cathy Fisher asked members to consider the noise to neighbours when placing bird scarers on site

8. Meeting Closure

Jill Street thanked everyone for coming and wished them a successful year.

The meeting closed at 8.33 pm.