

The Diamond Jubilee Allotments Society

Cartersfield Lane, Stonnall

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 20th March 2013 7.00 pm

Venue: Richard Cooper Room, Main Street, Shenstone.

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

Attendance (as signed in)

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Graham Black | Valmae Hassall | Liz Perry |
| Roger Bunting | Sally Holmes | Peter Sheratt |
| Sarah Cowley | Anthony Jude | Julie Steward |
| Carolyn Davis | Anthony Horton | Jill Street |
| John Fisher | Wendy Hunter | John Street |
| Julie Francis | Stuart Jones | Alan Wallace |
| Roger Fullard | Jane Manning | Terry White |
| Paul Gatfield | Mick Mullan | Jo Williams |
| Nancy Grew | Simon Parish | |
| Elizabeth Hassall | Debbra Pastel-Tullah | |

1. Welcome Introduction and Memorial to Chris Hollingsworth

Tony Horton welcomed everyone to the first annual General Meeting of The Diamond Jubilee Allotment Society.

As most people know our Chairman, Chris Hollingsworth, very sadly died at the end of last year and I have been standing in as Vice-Chairman up until tonight's elections.

Chris did a tremendous job in obtaining this allotment site. It actually took him 4 years to secure it and then to set it up, largely on his own for the benefit of us all.

In order to honour him and this achievement the committee plan to create a memorial in the Communal area consisting of a small paved area with a bench and plaque, and to plant a tree and maybe some flowering tubs.

The Committee have applied for a local community grant from the Parish Council, and we are also asking for donations to help with the cost.

There is a donation box on the table by the door.

2. Apologies

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Heather Cooper | Brian Hawthorn | Miles Matile |
| Elaine Davies | Peter Hunter | Alan Seddon |
| Stuart Davies | Keith Jones | Richard Trawford |
| Catherine Fisher | Colin Low | |

3. Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting held on Wednesday 18th April 2012 and Matters Arising

The minutes had been previously circulated and were approved unanimously after being proposed by Valmae Hassal and seconded by Simon Parish.

They had already been signed by Chris Hollingsworth at the first committee meeting 29th May 2012.

4. Chairman's Report

The first year on the Allotments got off to a flying start, with lots of enthusiasm and it was interesting to see how people had laid out their plots and later how crops were growing.

The new shed was erected and the Eco toilet successfully installed.

In June, Joyce Ross officially opened the site and despite the wet weather we were able to enjoy a barbeque.

The Website is up and running and many thanks go to Keith. All ploholders are receiving information via either the site, email or letter from Jill our Secretary.

Plot fees have remained the same as last year and the water bill was paid by the Parish Council.

Most ploholders largely had success in what they grew, despite the wet weather. I am sure lessons have been learnt so that we will do better this year.

I wish you well for the coming season.

5. Financial Report and Accounts

The Treasurer reported that there were two sets of money, one being held by the society and the other by Shenstone Parish Council.

The account held by the society totals £490 collected from the sale of scaffold planks less some small expenditure.

Shenstone Parish Council holds about £2000 on our behalf which will be made available to the society soon.

Nancy Grew asked that we look into the possible purchase of an automatic gate to make it easier to enter especially by car, but Sally Holmes expressed concerns as electric gates always need attention and can be very problematic.

Wendy Hunter proposed that we look into the possibility of the gate being moved further back to allow easier access.

It was pointed out that the gates and access track belong to the landowner and tenant farmer and we only have use of them.

Peter Sheratt expressed concern over the pot holes especially around the gate.

It was agreed that the pot holes need attention and the committee has this matter on their maintenance project list although as we are not normal tenants we need to be careful with our approach to the landowner and tenant farmer.

The adoption of the accounts were proposed by Peter Sheratt, seconded by Roger Bunting and approved unanimously.

6. Election of Officers and Committee Members

The Acting 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

Tony Horton – Committee member

Keith Jones – Committee member

Anthony Jude – Committee member

Alan Seddon – Committee member

As there had been no other nominations received, it was proposed by Valmae Hassall and seconded by Graham Black that they be elected in these positions.

This was unanimously accepted.

7. Adoption of the Allotment Constitution

It was explained that the Lichfield Allotment association constitution had been examined and felt that, with a few alterations, it fulfilled our requirements.

As the altered constitution had previously been circulated to all plotholders it was proposed we adopt it.

This was proposed by Simon Parish, seconded by Nancy Grew and approved unanimously.

8. Any Other Business

Jill Street informed everyone that more scaffold planks may be available and if so they would be left on the communal area and the cost would be £2 each as before.

We now have a push mower kindly donated by Miles Matile for general use. It is in the shed and it was requested that if used it be left clean and tidy for the next person.

Also Julie Steward will be leaving her rotovator in the shed for general use in a few days time.

Instructions as to its use will be sent out and those wishing to use it must provide their own fuel to prevent a fire risk in the shed. A donation box will be provided to help with the cost of maintenance and repair.

Sally Holmes expressed concern about the condition of the paths in between the plots and suggested the holes be filled in to help with access. It was decided that plotholders will be asked to level their paths this year with a view to sowing grass seed in the Autumn.

Roger Fullard asked about the patch behind his plot (Plot 38) which is left empty and he has to deal with the weeds etc. It was explained that this area is to be used for growing Comfrey this year which will be for the benefit of everyone for green manure. The committee agreed to also look into other uses for this space and its maintenance.

Valmae Hassall asked for a notice board and the committee agreed it would be a useful resource and will look into purchasing one and find a suitable site for it.

Sally Holmes asked if a hedge could be planted along the top fence to provide some much needed wind protection. It was agreed that this would also be put on the maintenance project list.

Nancy Grew asked what will be done with empty plots. It was explained that once the rent payment deadline has passed, those not paying will be contacted to check they no longer wish to work their plot. Any plots becoming available will be offered to those on the waiting list. The committee will decide what happens if plots are then still vacant.

Anthony Jude asked what will happen to neglected plots. It was agreed that letters will need to be sent to plotholders not keeping their plots in good order as it is part of our tenancy agreement and only fair to other plots around which have to contend with their weeds.

Simon Parish asked that a covered area be provided for social events. The committee have already considered an awning for the shed and will continue to look into possibilities.

Tony Horton thanked all Committee members for the work they have done throughout the year.

9. Meeting Closure

Tony Horton thanked everyone for coming and wished them a successful year.

The meeting closed at 7:45 pm.