

DIAMOND JUBILEE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

22th MARCH 2022

HELD IN Richard Cooper Room, Shenstone

9 people in attendance

1. Welcome and Introductions

Debra welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Dave Pitcher.

2. There were no previous AGM minutes or matters arising from prior year to be reviewed (as no AGM was held in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic).

3. Annual report from the Chair

Debra Tullah (in Dave Pitcher's absence) read the chairman's report. She briefly talked about the site in general over the last year. There had not been any major developments or issues in terms of the site. Unfortunately, we hadn't had any social events due to COVID. We hope to have some planned for the coming year.

The major issue that the chairman wanted to highlight was that we successfully had the lease extended for another 10 years. We are now able to invest in the capital improvement and maintenance projects such as new poles for the fencing as 50-60% of the posts are now rotten, shed and outdoor toilet re-staining.

We have successfully kept the rent the same, despite the increase in land lease.

All the plots have been let out. We will make effort to develop the waiting list. Several advertising campaigns are planned, posters and pieces in the parish newsletter.

The planning application for residential development on the barn site has been rejected. It is believed that this is going to appeal but it is expected that this will be rejected as well.

A skip is planned in the next month. Skips have proven to be very well received and keep the plots tidy.

4. Report from the Treasurer

Debra gave a full account of the income and expenditure for the year and the audited accounts are published on the website. She explained that with the current rent etc. the society will just about break even this year, as we haven't had any major expenditure.

Nominations for committee members

No new nominations had been forthcoming. Dave Pitcher was nominated and re-elected as chairman. Debra Tullah has remained as Treasurer and will continue to serve as Membership Administrator and Secretary.

5. Questions from the floor

- i. Roger asked whether we could seek administration support from Lichfield allotments and assistance obtaining reduced insurance costs. However, Debbra said that Lichfield doesn't operate that way and won't be able to take on additional burden. Annually the insurance is reviewed and we do seek for the lowest annual insurance policy. The insurance had not gone up in several years.
- ii. Ron asked about grants and proposed that we apply annually for grants. Though we have applied once for a parish grant for the fence post, which due to COVID, we have not been able to use yet, that we should apply for more grants each year. We will look for grants to help with the fencing, once we can obtain some quotes. An annual application for parish funding we agreed was a good idea.
- iii. Ron asked about Lichfield allotment prices, Debbra commented that they are cheaper, but vary in sizes. But that those allotments don't have to pay for insurance and cost of land lease. While we are self-managed and cost run.
- iv. Graham proposed that we weed-kill any empty plots. At the moment no plots are empty.
- v. Ron asked about COVID restrictions and the gates. At the moment, there are no more COVID restrictions. There were mixed views on whether we should revert to closing the first gate when we are at the allotments. We agreed to discuss this further. It was noted that the farmer does not close the gates and are normally situated out of view of the potential barn land, while the allotmenters have view of the barn. It was also mentioned that the first gate, the left side, the hinge is broken. The land agent has been informed, we advise that people don't open up that side of the gate.

The meeting closed for refreshments at this point.