



Western Wards Allotment Association
Minutes of 2016 Annual General Meeting

Held on 24th November 2016 in St Mary's Church Hall, Warsash. Commencing 19:35

Quorum established in accordance with article 7 of the constitution:

Bob Hughes (Chair)

Phil Pike (Treasurer)

Site Managers: Sandra Milam, Gill Rock, Ray Baldwin, Keith Johnson, Alastair Burnett.

Head count seven of max 10

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed some 25.... members to the 44th AGM of the Western Wards Allotment Association (WWAA).

1. APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Jane & Ted Weager, Martin Barnett, John Parsons, Peter Tratt, John & Ann Crathorn.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2015 AGM:

Proposed by Gill Rock - Warsash

Seconded by David Doran - Hunts Pond Road

Accepted.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

None.

4. HONORARY CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The Chairman thanked Association members for coming to the meeting and thanked the Site Managers (Ray, Gill, Sandra, Keith, Alistair, Martin and John) and Equipment Officers (Keith Thompstone & Norman Hatch) for their continued hard work to make the WWAA run as smoothly as possible.

Praise was also given to the many Association Members that give their time to support Site Managers with their project work on each site. Vera Flynn & Richard Bastow, the Trustees, received thanks too.

It was with great sadness that the Association received the news of the passing of Secretary, Patricia Metcalf this year. Deepest sympathies were passed to her family. Thanks were given to Gill and the Committee for covering Patricia's role for the remainder of the year.

New Lease - Lease renewal has been delayed and is now scheduled for April 2017; we expect there to be a significant increase in rent that will need to cover items such as water usage. A small increase has already been made for the period. As a result, development of the Associations' Constitution has been placed on hold in case key elements need to be changed, although change is hoped to be minimal.

Site News Round:

As mentioned at last AGM, the Committee agreed to support the installation of compost wood bark storage bays at **Sarisbury Green**, similar to those at Hunts Pond Road. Bees are still very active. The site endured a severe water outage during the heat of summer; thanks were given to Ray Baldwin and his fellow plot-holders for chasing the authorities into action. (See AOB).

Warsash has a new entrance gate this year.

Posbrook Lane too has a new gate.

The drainage scheme trial at **Hunts Pond Road** was approved by the Committee and executed in October. It was held as a model example of site-collaboration and self-help. Congratulations to Keith, Alistair and their team of helpers for carrying out the work safely within schedule and budget. It is sincerely hoped this effort results in improved drainage in the trial area.

Goodbye was said to the bees at HPR early this year for the simple reason that, following the southern sports field perimeter fence repair, inadequate undergrowth cover remained, requiring the bees to take a break. As this was a community project the decision was made to not renew the arrangement with the Apiarist. It is the Chairman's hope that a current or future plot-holder steps forward to keep bees on HPR site again.

Lodge Road, always such a well turned out site, suffered from some malicious vandalism at the tail end of the season and while FBC and the Police were involved these type of incidents have lasting impact and it is hoped the site and plot holders recover as soon as possible.

Most of the sites have very small or no waiting list at all. Common misconception that the waiting lists are long needs to be addressed to alleviate concern for the future of allotment holding. Next year the Committee will set an objective to increase efforts to publicise vacancies.

WWAA Winners of Fareham in Bloom Competition:

Allotments up to 5 rods

Gold - Mike Seddon, Lodge Road
Bronze – Alex Thompson, Lodge Rd

Allotments over 5 rods

Gold and Overall Winner – Geoff & Sandra Millam, Lodge Road
Silver Guilt & Category Winner - Jo & Sean Shaw, HPR
Silver Guilt - Clare Tilbury, Lodge Road

Small Best Kept Allotment Site

Silver Guilt - Lodge Rd

Large Best Kept Allotment Site

Silver Gilt for HPR, Warsash and Sarisbury Green

Keith Johnson was thanked for arranging Certificates to be presented at the AGM.

Finance:

The Association and Trading Hut finances remain strong, through sound management. See Treasurer's report below. For the past year there has been a small reduction in the accumulated balance that continues to be cyclical, depending on when the larger payments leave the account.

John Parsons, Posbrook Lane Site Manager, and the Committee are working to ensure that the site is self-sustaining and to that end rents have been increased to cover the cost of water, for which the Association is now liable.

There are many good ideas in the pipeline, such as new shed for Lodge Road. The Chairman requested that ideas for future expenditure be given to the Committee.

Website:

The website, generously run by Rona Neilson and supported by Keith Taylor, continues to grow from strength to strength, and is the must go source for information on WWAA. Please continue to visit the site for information and provide suggestions and news topics to Rona.

Finally, the high standard of plots maintained again this year on all the sites was commended.

5. HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer presented the Accounts for the year ending 30th September 2016 as follows:

On the General Account there is a small deficit of £3.62, Hunts Pond Road and Sarisbury Green utilising over 50% of the Income.

On the Trading Hut the deficit was primarily due to supporting the Posbrook Lane Site with a replacement gate and hedge-cutting. It was also noted that the water rate was in excess of £300, something to bear in mind for the other sites.

As Posbrook Lane cannot be funded by the other four sites, rent is somewhat higher than for the other sites, being £4.00 compared to £2.65. Eventually it is expected that this higher rent will go some way to make Posbrook Lane self-funding.

Historically the rent has always been set by Fareham Borough Council and reviewed every two years. It is based on the RPI over the previous two years and this year has been increased to £2.80 per Rod.

The BACS payment option was introduced this year. It has gone quite well with one or two hiccups. It is important to include Name, Site and Plot, also to return the Rent Slip. This confirms payment, plus any change in circumstances, address etc.

The Accounts were proposed by Gill Rock and seconded by David Doran & Keith Johnson.

6. HONORARIUMS:

It was unanimously agreed that the Honorariums for Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary should remain at £300. Site Managers' Honorarium remains at £150 and the Honorarium of £300 for the Equipment Manager continues to be split evenly between Keith Thompstone and Norman Hatch.

7. ELECTIONS:

The Chairman proposed that all unopposed positions be re-elected/elected. This was approved by the floor. The following positions were filled:-

Chairman – Bob Hughes

Treasurer – Phil Pike

Secretary – *NEW* (Barney Spragg)

Trading Hut Manager – John Parsons

Site Managers:-

Sarisbury Green – Ray Baldwin

Warsash - Gill Rock

Lodge Road - Sandra Milam

Posbrook - John Parsons

Hunts Pond Road – Martin Barnett, Alastair Burnett and Keith Johnson

Auditor – Brian Baker
Trustees – Vera Flynn and Richard Bastow

Following the elections the new Honorary Secretary made a brief presentation to introduce himself.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Concern was expressed for the Sarisbury Green Site Manager who had recorded his appreciation and grateful thanks for the support he had received from the site during his illness. His statement, that the situation was under control and that no additional site manager need be appointed to lighten his burden, was accepted.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked all attendees and the meeting was closed formally at 20.27 hours.