



Western Wards Allotment Association **Minutes of 2015 Annual General Meeting**

Held on 26th November 2015 in St Mary's Church Hall, Warsash.

Bob Hughes, Chairman, welcomed 87 members to the 43rd AGM of the Western Wards Allotment Association (WWAA) and requested that, as all attendees were members of the Association, peoples' feelings and rights should be respected.

1. APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Ray Baldwin, Bonnie & Andrew Wilson, Mary Nadowski, John & Ann Crathorn and Kit Colson.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2014 AGM:

Accepted.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

None.

4. HONORARY CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The Chairman thanked all Association members for coming to the meeting. He also thanked all those people who give their time to make the Association work, in particular Equipment Officers: Keith Thompstone & Norman Hatch; Site Managers: Linda Tomlinson, Sandra Milam, Gill Rock, John Parsons, Ray Baldwin, Phil Pike, Martin Barnett and Trustees – Vera Flynn & Richard Bastow. Special thanks were given to Gill Rock who continued as Secretary for another year.

The new website is now in operation, developed and maintained by Rona Neilson with assistance from Keith Taylor. The website has a wealth of information and news on the Association, including information links, A-Z tips and guidance on keeping bees. Also available are the Rules, new Constitution, AGM and Committee meeting minutes. The Chairman encouraged people to visit the site for information and to continue providing suggestions and news topics to Rona.

Constructive meetings have been held with Hunts Pond Road (HPR) members and Fareham Borough Council (FBC) early in the year regarding poor drainage at the HPR site. Where possible, solutions were discussed extensively, including historical suggestions and their inherent problems. These meetings have resulted in FBC clearing the HPR roadside ditch, pipe clearance and creating additional sections of French drains across site entrances, costing approximately £4,000.

The Chairman reported successes with beekeeping at both Sarisbury Green and HPR sites and good quantities of honey have been produced.

The Association and Trading Hut finances remain in a strong position through sound management. The accounts show a greater overall balance than last year owing to a number of large late costs that will be carried over into next year. Members were asked to continue coming to the Committee with ideas, proposals and plans for future project expenditure.

Finally, the Chairman noted the high standard of plots on all the sites and congratulated people on their hard work.

5. HONORARY SECRETARYS' REPORT:

The Secretary reported that at the moment all sites have small waiting lists. However there are enough people on the list to enable managers, when necessary, to encourage tenants of bad plots that it is time to give up.

As in previous years, the Association did extremely well in the Fareham in Bloom competition:

Allotments up to 5 rods:

Gold & Overall Winner for the second year running - Sarah Redman from Warsash
Gold and Category Winner - Mike and Fiona Seddon from Lodge Road
Silver Gilt - Rosie Scott from Lodge Road, Alex Thompson from Lodge Road, Theresa Lawrie Ashton of Warsash and Graeme Hernandez of Hunts Pond Road

Allotments over 5 rods:

Gold - Christopher Colbeck from Hunts Pond Road
Silver Gilt - Geoff and Sandra Milam from Lodge Road
Silver Gilt - Clare Tilbury from Lodge Road

The Western Wards did not win one of the Best Site awards this year.

Last year two tenants expressed an interest in taking on the role of Secretary. Neither had been nominated and neither attended the AGM so no election took place. At the next Committee meeting in January the situation was reviewed and it was decided that the Secretary would continue in the post until a formal election could take place.

The Secretary has enjoyed the role, doing her best to facilitate tenants having good plots on good sites and is still passionate about the benefits of having an allotment. She thanked people for their support over the years.

6. HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer presented the Accounts for the year ending 30th September 2014, noting that the balance sheet surplus will be used to fund outstanding projects at sites. The lease is up for renewal in 2016 and it is expected that rental and other costs will be reviewed.

In line with modern banking practices the Treasurer reported that it will be possible to pay rents etc. by bank transfer next year. The present cash and cheque payment options will still be available until phased out of action.

The Accounts were proposed by Phil Witcher and seconded by Richard Elkin.

7. HONORARIUMS:

It was unanimously agreed that the Honorariums for Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Trading Hut Manager 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.

8. ELECTIONS:

The Chairman proposed that the five unopposed positions be re-elected en-bloc. Seconded by Tiny Neville.

Hunts Pond Road Managers - Voting took place by members of HPR on the positions of Site Managers. Martin Barnett was re-elected, joined by Alastair Burnett and Keith Johnson. Thanks were given to the outgoing Site Managers.

Secretary - Pamela Beecroft withdrew her nomination and Patricia Metcalf was appointed as Secretary.

Treasurer - Phil Pike was re-elected with 52 votes versus 32 votes for Tiny Neville.

Chairman - Bob Hughes was re-elected with 55 votes versus 26 votes for Brian Matthews.

Chairman – Bob Hughes

Treasurer – Phil Pike

Secretary – Patricia Metcalf

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

9. CONSTITUTION:

The Constitution had been issued to all members with their rental renewal notice and feedback was received from two members. The Treasurer read out their comments. The Chairman proposed that all interested parties work to produce a revised, living document that would be presented at the next AGM. The current Rules would then be retired.

Seconded by Keith Taylor.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

10.1 Beekeeping – Concerns were raised about the safety of ploholders at adjacent plots on the HPR site. There were no reported issues at Sarisbury Green. The Chairman requested that Site Managers adhere to regulations as specified on the [WWAA website](#), in particular the height of the surrounding fence.

10.2 Although the attendance at the AGM was larger than normal, it was suggested that the date for the next meeting be changed to another time of year, when the weather may be better, and so encourage even more members to attend.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked all attendees and the meeting was closed at 21.24 hours.