

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Hollin Lane Allotment Association 2018

Date 30/10/2018

Venue: Meanwood Institute

Apologies for absence: Sue Stones, Louise Gibbs, Jo Ann Eisenberg, Stephan Petzold, John Oughton

Minutes of the previous meeting: these were accepted as a true record.

Chair's report: Joe thanked everyone for coming, and summarised events of the last year

- There were bumper fruit crops this year despite (or perhaps because of) the dry hot season. Again rats and squirrels were a problem, but Ros Dunlevey's suggestion of scattering chili powder on sweetcorn is effective in deterring pests. Birds do not seem to be bothered by chili, so perhaps this could work for bird tables also.
- The committee were very active during the year, with 7 meetings (one more than usual). The main items which were discussed were concerning plot inspections and decisions about warning letters and evictions (see Trustees report), and planning events (see below)
- The Plant Bring and Buy on 3rd June had lots of very good quality plants and attracted local residents as well as our own plottolders. Thanks to the Refreshment providers and servers.
- We opened the site to the public on the Saturday of Allotment Week. Thanks to all who helped.
- The Show was judged by our own Gillian North and a great day was had by all.
- The committee arranged regular work parties with refreshments offered to the workers. The work parties mainly involved our own plottolders but also some outsiders including some local residents who helped with the first Path work day, and Morgans City Living who donated a full day's work to finish the path work and to start clearing a very overgrown plot which should be ready to let in the New Year. The materials for the path work were provided by Leeds City Council. Many passers by commented on the improvement.
- Thanks to Peter Blakey for his continued work on mowing the paths. Peter Copeland also does this and has done work on tying in brambles along the bottom fence; we will need to have another session to finish this.
- Thanks to the Toilet fairies who keep the composting toilet clean and tidy. Please volunteer for a 2-week stint on this duty- it is not onerous.
- Weeding in the Coppice area needs regular input, but the area is looking great; we will continue to need volunteers for this.

- Massive thank you to Angie Wilshaw who has done amazing work in fundraising. Over her years as Secretary she has found money and pushed completion of the following projects: Social area roofing, Composting toilet and communal tool shed, new fence, new gates, Senior plots, Ornamental planters, Communal Polytunnel, and Apple Juicing day. As well as this she has had loads of good ideas and has taken time to purchase and repair wheelbarrows which can be used by everyone as well as working on the Coppice and Senior plots. Thank you Angie and enjoy your rest from the Committee. We may come after you again....
- Rent: will be the same for 2019, there are no new rent rises expected.
- Joe finished by thanking the Committee and volunteers and asking for all ploholders to take part in work parties whenever possible.

Trustees report:

- Inspections take place on or close to 1st March 1st June and 1st September. The Trustees mainly consider Cultivation and Safety. They report to the next committee meeting and letters of warning may be sent out to holders of plots where there are concerns. A six-week warning is given. After that time a further inspection takes place. This year there have been 7 evictions.
- Security: there have been several break-ins and some vandalism and thefts. A careful inspection of the perimeter did not reveal any obvious point of entry. Please make sure that the gate code is scrambled.
- Paths: should be 80 cm wide for safety and ease of passage. Try to keep paths built up to that level and avoid losing soil. (This was in last year's minutes too!)

Treasurers Report: Ness presented the accounts for the year. There are differences in the rental amounts due to the change in the date for rent demands; this should even out in the next report. There were no queries about the report. Joe thanked Ness who is standing down as Treasurer after 5 years in the post.

Change of Constitution:

Section 5 addition as follows: OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. The Officers shall consist of a Chairman, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer **and Hon Letting Officer**. There shall be seven committee members with powers to co-opt extra members. This was passed by the meeting.

Election of Officers: This years Committee all stood down. The new Committee will consist of

Joe Foster Chair

Sue Stones Hon Secretary

Stephan Petzold Hon Treasurer

Rosie Hall Hon Letting Officer

Mary Davies, Chris Foren, Ness Clarke agreed to serve again on the committee. Jayne Harnett, Tom Evans and Trina Cheung and Glen Drury were nominated and agreed to serve on the committee. Many thanks to all!

Prizegiving: The plot judging was done by Brian Jenner in a slightly different way from usual. Because we now have large numbers of half and quarter plots he judged each plot as a percentage, and then we divided them up into full, half and quarter plots. The first prize and the shield went to the **best Half plot: Malcolm Slade**. Second prize went to the **best Full plot: Joe Foster**, and third prize went to the **best quarter plot: Harriet Gardiner**. The **best Newcomer prize** went to **Leonard Cummings**.

Show prizes were as follows:

Best in Show went to **Peter Blakey** for his magnificent cabbage.

'Most points' prize was awarded to **Joe Foster**.

The **Joe Maiden Cup** went to **Jo Ann Eisenberg**.

The **Novice prize** was won by **Sue Stones**.

Projects: The next project is the communal Polytunnel for which we will need a few work parties.

AOB:

- **Manure:** Rosie has sourced some horse manure which should be arriving in a week or two. This should be stacked for the next few months on your compost heap. The price will be the usual £1 per barrow.
- Mary will send round an email about mushroom compost
- We will try to source some woodchip for the paths again, we stopped it because there was too much, and it was blocking the path.
- Rosie mentioned the Leeds Allotment Federation Learning Day March 16th, 2019 and encouraged people to attend.
- We presented Ness with a gift in thanks for her hard work as Treasurer.
- The meeting closed at 21.15