

Annual General Meeting of Hollin Lane Allotment Association

Meanwood Institute 25/10/2019

Present : Joe Foster, Rosie Hall, Giles Foster, Glenn Drury, Steve Monether, John Oughton, Peter and Kathryn Blakey, Stephan Petzold, Jayne Harnett, Prabhah Vitalbhay, Chris and Sue Thirkill, Chris Foren, Rachael Munro-Fawcett, Jonty Brown.

Apologies: Mary Davies, Dwayne Saxton, Jenny Tennant-Jackson, Tom and Trina Evans Cheung, Sue Stones, Ness Clarke, Jo Ann Eisenberg, Louise Gibbs

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.

Chairs Report:

- The growing year: there was a cold dry spring, a wet summer with early appearance of potato blight in July. Some fruit crops were very good. Rats and squirrels were a big problem, and many corn crops were completely wiped out. We should expect more attacks from a large population of hungry rats on other crops and should try to harvest crops to avoid feeding rats. Attention to compost heaps, emptying them as appropriate and disturbing rats as much as possible may help reduce the breeding sites and food supplies.
- We had 5 committee meetings this year.
- Sue Stones is stepping down as Secretary. We thank her for all her hard work and creative input.
- There was a visit from Moorlands School on 25th September. 3 plot holders and some staff members took the children round the site, they picked brambles, learnt how to assess ripeness and pick apples properly. A donation of apple juice for the school was gratefully received. The school sent a folder of letters of thanks and photographs of the day were passed round.
- The plant B&B was on 3rd June and was a great success, the quality of plants was again excellent.
- The Annual Show was held on 8th September, judged by our own Gillian North.
- The final cash intake for the above 2 events is still to be reported along with the rest of the accounts (see below), but the profit for the B&B is around £520.
- Work parties: there were several of these this year, including the erection of the communal polytunnel, and apple juicing day, further work on the coppice area, pruning and tidying brambles and hedges, bonfires. Volunteers continue to work as grass cutters (we have a new mower!), as 'toilet fairies', maintaining the 'senior plots', and looking after the Facebook page. Thanks to the committee, officers and volunteers for all the hard work this year.
- Rent continues at £72/full plot this year but will rise over the next 3 years

Trustees report:

- There were 5 inspections between March and September, looking mainly at Health and Safety and Cultivation. There were 4 evictions. Several plots improved after warning letters.
- Security: There were several break-ins, though the new fence and gate seem to help. It seems likely that leaving the code unscrambled is the cause of the break-ins, so it is important to remember to scramble the code.

- Paths: a reminder that the paths should measure 80cm in width for safety in manoeuvring mowers and wheelbarrows and for general safety.

Election of Officers: The current committee all stood down. The following members were re-elected as officers:

2020 Chair: Joe Foster, Secretary: Jayne Harnett, Treasurer: Stephan Petzold, Lettings: Rosie Hall

2020 Committee: Mary Davies, Ness Clarke, Tom and Trina Evans Cheung, Glenn Drury, Chris Foren, Giles Foster

Prize-giving:

- The annual plot judging by Brian Jenner was carried out on 13th July. As last year he judged 3 sections, awarding points for best full, half and quarter plots, + newcomers.

Full plot: Ros Dunlevey plot 37 (2nd Joe Foster 30, 3rd Peter Blakey 13)

Half plot: Chris Thirkill plot 14B (2nd M Slade 8R)

Quarter plot: Jayne Harnett plot 15 BL (2nd Jessica Johnson 3BL, 3rd Ben and Sophia Hepworth 38 BL)

Newcomer Dwayne Saxton 35R

- Show 8th September judged by Gill North

Best in Show Rosie Hall (leeks!)

Overall winner Rosie Hall

Joe Maiden Cup Jenny Tennant-Jackson

Novice Jessica Johnson

- Projects for 2020: Continue with coppice work. Notice boards for the hut: Rachael Munro-Fawcett agreed to make enquiries. Rosie agreed to research advice about insurance for non-members. We will discuss staging in the polytunnel at the next committee meeting.

AOB: Rachael Munro-Fawcett (documentary photographer) gave a short presentation of her recent work on Hollin Lane Allotments with a selection of photographs taken on the site. She will be carrying out some interviews to complete her presentation and she hopes to present this at various sites throughout Leeds.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm