



Hollin Lane

Allotment Association

Annual General Meeting of Hollin Lane Allotment Association Tuesday, 1 November 2022 at Meanwood Institute, Green Road, LS6 4LD.

Present : J Foster 30 & 31B, G Foster & N Clarke 20T, R Hall 12B & 21B, M Davies 10 B1 1&2, P & K Blakey 13, S Thirkill 14B &, J Ward 45, C Hull 29BR, H Fenton 39T?, S Monether 5BR, J Tennant-Jackson 40B, S Heleine 29T, J Lawton 46T, J Harnett 15BL.

1. Apologies: C Foren, P Vitalbhay, R Munro-Fawcett, J Eisenburg, G Drury, L Allen, S Knight, J & S Olive, L Gibbs, A Menzer, C. Scott, H Bewick.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 25 October 2021 were agreed as a true record.

Matters arising from last year's minutes. The rents will increase for 2022-2023 by 3% as agreed. The rent for a full plot is £74.16 per annum.

3. Chair's and Trustees' Reports:

- Six trustees' inspections: about 1 Mar, 1 June, 1 Sep, then follow ups after ~ six weeks.
- Giles Foster agreed to be trustee after death of Chris Thirkill.
- Committee met 6 times this year, first two on Zoom.
- (8 Dec, 18 Mar, 4 May, 16 Jun, 18 Jul, 20 Sep)
- Evicted: One eviction. Several gave up plots voluntarily.

Events:

- Best Plot No judging this year.
- Plant B&B 29 May (~£550, I think)
- Autumn Show on 4 Sep. (Thanks to Eric Wells and Roger Storr for judging)
- Work parties: Pruning and training brambles along public footpath, dismantling shed and clearing paths at top of site to get at the stone wall that has collapsed.
- Apple day on Sunday 2 Oct.

A few problems:

- **Drought.** Some crops delayed or smaller. Some positives. Did any crops fail?
- **Slugs.** Somewhat less damage due to drought.
- **Rats.** Not much damage to crops this year, but too many places for them to hide (tidy up! Wire mesh under compost bins.). Still too much food available. (Clear up fallen fruit quickly. Check sweet corn, sunflowers, etc.). Trustees to take note!
- **Allium leaf miner.** Some crops of leeks, garlic, onion shallots ruined. Fine mesh works!
- **Blight.** None this year - too dry!
- **Pigeons.** Always a problem. Net brassicas, especially seedlings.
- **Paths.** Some uneven surfaces between plots. Overgrown in places (cut back or train bushes, esp. brambles.). Too narrow in places (Plots whittled away over time.

Need room for wheelbarrow or mower.) Some steep edges. Perimeter path should be 2m wide.

- Waiting response from LCC on rebuilding wall at top of site.
- **Security.** Some crops stolen this year. Also PAFRAS contributions. Always scramble lock codes! Please report thefts or damage. Code to change soon.
- **Committee nominations:** Simon Knight, Harry Fenton, James Heywood.

Treasurer's Report was submitted with comments from the Treasurer. There were queries about the Hut Sales and the Business Stream water rates. We should check the water meter regularly to get accurate readings.

Plot Letting: R Hall said that HLAA has the longest waiting list for plots in Leeds and is also the site with the most reduced plot sizes. The majority of people on the waiting list live in LS6 or LS16 so are local. Some are people with starter plots who are waiting to move up to a quarter plot.

4. Elections:

All stand down, but eligible for re-election.

Officers:

- Chair: Joe Foster will stand.
- Secretary: Jayne Harnett will stand.
- Plot Letting: Rosie Hall will stand.
- Treasurer: Rachael Munro Fawcett (wants to retire).

Committee (need 7)

- Ness Clarke will stand.
- Mary Davies will stand.
- Louise Allen will stand.
- Chris Foren will stand.
- Giles Foster will stand.
- Jo Ann Eisenberg will stand.

- Stephan Petzold will stand down.
- John Balfour will stand down.

All the Officers were re-elected. Simon Knight, Harry Fenton and James Heywood were elected and welcomed onto the Committee. There will be a Committee meeting later this month.

5. Prize giving for the Autumn Show. P Blakey (points). R Hall (best exhibit). P Blakey (Joe Maiden cup). Discussed whether to reinstate Best Plot prize. Should we award a Best Plot prize for different plot sizes? This involves a lot of work. Agreed to take to the Committee.

6. Project and Grants. The Gillian North Bequest: We asked for suggestions for the new hut at the Autumn Show and displayed some ideas of customised containers. Awaiting reply from the Council regarding planning permission for an extended concrete base. The new customised container(s) will have secure storage space for the equipment, tables and community solar powered trimmers. An area with shelving and rollers to store the netting and supplies and a social area with a library.

3 quotes have been submitted to the Council for drystone walling work at the top of the site.

7. AOB

- Sylvagrow peatfree compost is good. M Davies and R Hall to order more.
- Work parties to continue. The shredder is working and can be used for the brambles.
- King Seeds: orders to J Oughton by 3 November.
- New Toilet Fairy rota has been circulated. Anyone wanting to volunteer should get in touch with J Tennant-Jackson or any member of the Committee.