

Minutes of the AGM meeting 29th October 2018 7.30pm Bilton Cricket Club

Apologies

Peter Sanderson, Scott Turner, Judi Popplewell, Fran Gelder

Minutes of the last AGM 8th November 2017

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record and there were no matters arising

Proposed by Robin Adderley. Seconded by Alan Jacques

Chairman's Report

David Gelder referred to the past year's harsh winter followed by a cold wet spring but a glorious summer.

Local Green Space, The Draft Local Plan was submitted to the secretary of State on the 1st August 2018 and a planning inspector has been appointed. The Draft Local Plan includes the Allotment as being designated as Local Green Space.

Harrogate and District Allotment Federation Allotment Show 2018

We did it again! For 6 years running we have won the Edgar Scholey shield for best allotment site in the Federation. A big thankyou to everyone for their hard work.

Fiona Walker also won Harrogate in Bloom best allotment plot, Peter Sanderson won most points in show and Heather Adderley won most points in the baking.

We received a letter from MP Andrew Jones congratulating us on our achievement.

GDPR: We have had to develop and publish a policy for the General Data Protection Regulations. Thank you for signing and returning the forms; a small number of tenants have yet to do this but will be chased up to do so.

Once again, we have enjoyed free woodchip and compost from HBC. Thanks were given to Fiona for organising this.

This coming weekend is Bonfire weekend and it has been extended to Monday the 5th. The water will be turned off after the weekend of the 10th/11th November

Finally, the committee always endeavour to meet the requirements of the members. However it is disappointing that when asked to help with maintenance of the site and representing the Association at events including the HDAF meetings and on Allotment Show day, it is always the same few people that bother to volunteer despite it being a requirement of the Tenancy Agreement (Clause 16).

David gave thanks to Peter Sanderson for all his hard work in keeping the finances up to scratch and for his time on the committee. Thanks were also extended to Fiona Walker for her contributions to site maintenance and for her Secretary and Membership secretary time on the committee.

Treasurer's Report

James Nicholls read out the Treasurers report in Peter Sanderson's absence

'First, I would like to thank Andrew Ferguson for once again auditing the account in such a professional manner.

We have an income of £4002 pound this year and expenditure of £3990 so we finished this financial year with £12 more than we had at the end of last year.

We didn't have a stall at Bilton Gala due to the plants being behind due to the harsh spring. A BBQ wasn't held this year due to lack of interest which was a shame. Income was confined to Rents, Key deposits and donations.

The major expenditure was on three items

1, Improving the security of the site by having new locks fitted to the gates. The locks, chains and keys came in at just under £1300. The keys were self-financing because we charged a refundable deposit of £10 per key. We have five spare keys, so we shouldn't need to buy anymore.

2, Repairs and servicing of machinery was £381 which was a bit more than normal as we had all mowers, strimmers and hedge cutters serviced.

3, Water: the balance sheet shows £490 for water. However, that was only for three quarters. The bill for the final quarter, which we normally receive just before the end of the financial year (30th Sep) wasn't received until mid-October. That bill was for £160 therefor the total cost of water used in the financial year was £650. We budget £400 per year for water. In the previous three years the cost of water has been £322, £295, £306. A total cost of £1573 or an average of £392 per year.

We received a rebate of £30 from Yorkshire Water for water wasted whilst there was a leak at the meter. Various members made voluntary contributions amounting to £85 to cover the cost of extra water they had used during the drought. They were Betty Syrill, Fiona Walker, David and Fran Gelder, Lee and Michelle De Pledge, Laurence Rule and Peter Sanderson. Les Jacques contributed on the night of the AGM.

RENT: in accordance with the terms of the lease agreement we have with Harrogate Borough Council a rent review has been carried out. The review was based on the increase in the retail price index between the signing of the agreement in 2013 and February this year. During that period the index increased marginally over 12 percent, so the rent has been increased by that percentage from £1525 to £1709 an increase of £184 from the 1st April 2018.

Historically there have been two elements to the rent payable by our members. The first element is for land and water which is paid pro rata according to the size of your plot, currently £52 (full plot) £39 (three-quarter) £26 (half) £13 (quarter). The second element is for everything else e.g. maintenance, insurance, petrol, machinery etc. that figure is £12 for everyone regardless of the size of your plot.

The committee is proposing an increase in the first element of £4 (full) £3 (three-quarter) £2 (Half) £1 (Quarter).

No increase is proposed for the second element.

Rents therefore will be £68 Full, £54 Three-quarter, £40 Half, £26 Quarter

Such an increase would generate an extra income of £152. The additional amount of £32 plus the back dated increase for the last year can be paid out of reserves.

Membership Secretary's report

We currently have 9 full plots, 2 three-quarter plots, 42 Half plots, 23 Quarter plots

The waiting list is very healthy with 19 names on it. Any plots that become vacant will soon be filled.

Sadly, this time we have said goodbye to Mr. Geoff Badger who has decided to give up his plot. He has been a long-standing member not only as a tenant but also had been a very active member of the committee, being the Chairman for some years. Thank you, Geoff, for not only being a great gardener but for being such a lovely friend. We will miss you.

Website update Web Administration Report

David Gelder read out the Web Admin report in Scott Turner's absence

The cost of the Website and Domain are considerably less than last year at £9.49 per annum

We are aware there has been a problem with the committee emails which has now been resolved. We also are aware of some issues with the Tenancy Agreement and Constitution on the website. These will be resolved once Scot returns from holiday.

Amendment to the Tenancy Agreement

Following a robust discussion, it was concluded that any proposed amendment to the tenancy agreement may need to go to an EGM or to a future AGM.

Sprinklers

A proposal that sprinklers be banned with immediate effect was voted on and carried unanimously. Proposed by James Nicholls, Seconded by Alan Jacques

A second proposal was brought to the floor to hold this ban for a 1-year trial this motion was also carried.

Proposed by Eric Wright seconded by Ray Gowton

Hosepipes

After some heated debate it was proposed that if tenants are to use a hosepipe for any kind of water usage e.g. filling butts or watering a plot, an extra payment will be required. The proposed amounts were: £2.50 for a quarter plot, £5.00 for a half, £7.50 for a three quarter, £10.00 for a full plot; with payment to be made directly to the treasurer.

Proposed by Laurence Rule, Seconded by Sue Duff. To be reviewed in one year at the 2019 AGM

There was also a suggestion of timer taps and notice reminders on the water stations to remind tenants to switch off taps as it has been noted this year that taps are again being left on!

Election of Officers and Committee

The Trustees of NOAA will remain the same, namely David Gelder, Peter Sanderson and Fiona Walker. The aforementioned said that they were prepared to stand again and, as no one else was nominated nor offered their services, were unanimously re-elected.

Your elected committee for next year are:

David Gelder Chairman

Judi Popplewell Secretary

Scot Turner Web Administration

James Nicholls Manure Scheme

Robin Adderley Member

The aforementioned said that they were prepared to stand again and, as no one else was nominated nor offered their services, were unanimously re-elected.

Stepping down from the committee are:

Peter Sanderson, Treasurer, for personal reasons

Fiona Walker, Membership Secretary, due to work commitments

Fran Gelder from her position of Vice Chair, as her eligibility for the post has been questioned by a tenant, despite being her being elected as such last year. However, to ensure there can be no suggestion of misconduct she is stepping down.

New Treasurer Ken Lowther. Proposed by Ray Gowton, seconded by Laurence Rule.

New Membership Secretary Andy Nicholls. Proposed by Robin Adderley, seconded by Mark Nicholls.

New member Mark Nicholls. Proposed by Andy Nicholls, seconded by James Nicholls

Presentation of the Bill Lodge Trophy

The trophy, judged by the HDAF, was presented to Fiona Walker, who won best plot on the NOAA site as a result of being best plot in Harrogate for the 5th year running.

In second place was Lyn Carling.

In third place was Peter Sanderson

Any other business

None

Meeting closed at 8.30PM