

# NORTH OUTFALL ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

## TREASURER

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## SECRETARY

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AGENDA – Annual General Meeting 27th October 2016 7.30 pm

**Apologies** were given by Sue and David Duff, Rockna Jarvis, Pauline Haughton, Celia Webster, Mark Nicholls, and Dave Blyford, Helen Faulkener

**Minutes of 2015 AGM** Last year's minutes were proposed as a true copy by Ray Gowton, and seconded by Andy Nicholls. No matters were arising from the minutes.

### Membership Secretary's report

- Best Allotment Site - Fiona reported that we have won the Best Allotment Site trophy for the fourth year running. Thanks, were given to everyone who helped to tidy the plot before judging, and to members for keeping individual plots tidy.
- Woodchip – we have had a delivery of free woodchip from a local company, and are hoping to have more in future. The woodchip is situated by the top gate.
- Compost – HBC will be delivering free compost to us in the Spring. The quantity isn't yet known. Members will be advised when it has arrived, and how it is to be allocated.
- Coffee grounds – Betty's have offered free used coffee grounds to us, and we're looking at arranging supplies for use on site from early 2017, these would need collecting by a group of volunteers.
- Plots – we now have 80 plots. Most plots are quartered, giving a more manageable space. There are still some half plots, and these will be offered to existing plot holders who want more space in the first instance.
- Vehicles on site – no vehicles are allowed on site until Spring, although the ban may be temporarily lifted if we have a hard frost.
- Bonfires – we'll ask the Council if we can have bonfires next weekend, in line with bonfire night. Only dry wood should be burnt. Plot holders should make sure fires are very hot to reduce smoke, and ensure smoke doesn't blow onto neighbouring properties.
- Top hedge – the Council cut the hedge last year. Whips were planted in gaps in the hedge, and these are thriving.

### Treasurer's report

- Pete thanked Andrew Ferguson for completing the annual audit, and for giving help and advice. At the end of the financial year (30<sup>th</sup> September) we had £3,611 in the bank, which includes key deposits of £50 and £160 prepaid rents.
- We had a donation of £55 from a gardening club who visited over the summer, and were shown around by Fiona, Janet Coates, and Keith Warwick.

- Our target last year was to have funds to replace the top gate and have £2,800 left in the bank. We are now in a stronger financial position than last year with £300 more in the bank.
- It was proposed that rent remain the same this year (other than the previously agreed reduction in concessions) proposed by Andy Nicholls and seconded by David Gelder.
- Kings seed scheme is still available for anyone wanting half price seeds. Pete needs to place the order by 1<sup>st</sup> December.
- Members had asked about plans for replacing the fence and buying a toilet. Pete advised that last year we'd said that we would apply for a lottery grant for the fence, and that it was felt that security was the priority. We have been granted the maximum £10,000 from the lottery, and hope to raise another £1,500 from other sources, which will give us 92% of the cost of the fence. We can apply for additional funds for a toilet next year. Pete asked for authority to use a maximum of £1000 from the associations funds to make up the shortfall between the cost of the replacement fence and the funding we receive to pay for the fence. The authority was given unanimously. A question was asked about the height of the fence. It will be 2 meters, but will not have barbed wire. The Council have expressed concerns about the barbed wire we have on the existing fence. And whilst it is noted that tenants may be concerned about the fence being smaller without barbed wire, it is illegal so we cannot have it on the new fence. A question was asked about the ownership of the path next to the fence, as we could possibly take the fence a couple of feet out, which would make it higher up the slope, and thus more secure. It was agreed that this was a valid point and one which would be pursued with the Council.

**Constitution Amendment** It is proposed that item 13 of the constitution be amended as follows:

“The committee of management must be members of the Association, and shall consist of a Chairman, Treasurer, Administrative Secretary, Membership Secretary and two committee members or such number as shall be determined at a General Meeting” and that items 10,21,42 and 43 be amended accordingly.

**Proposed by:** Peter Sanderson

**Seconded by:** Jane Wood

There were no comments on this proposal, and it was accepted unanimously

**Website** The license expires in July 2017. Members of the association are asked to consider if the website license should be renewed, and how much they are prepared to spend to keep a website.

Scott told the meeting that the current license would cost £160 to renew for three years, but he found a more competitive price of £34 p.a. The usage of the website was questioned, and Scott advised that it was well used in the winter months, less so in the summer.

Members voted to keep the website with 23 in favour, and 1 against.

Members were willing to spend up to £50 p.a. for the website with 19 voting in favour, and 0 against.

**Election of officers and committee** The proposals for officers and members of the committee were accepted unanimously.

Treasurer – Peter Sanderson

Membership Secretary – Fiona Walker

Administration Secretary – Jane Wood

Auditor – Andrew Ferguson

Committee – Scott Turner, Fran Gelder, Robin Adderley, Evie Woolveridge, James Nicholls.

There were no nominations for the position of Chairman.

**Presentation of the Bill Lodge Trophy for Best Plot 2015** Fiona Walker was awarded the trophy, with Lynn Carling and Janice Wilcockson coming second and third. The AGM congratulated Fiona, Lynn and Janice on their success, and congratulations also went to Fiona for winning the best plot in the district. This is the first time this award has been won by a member of North Outfall.

**Any other business** None

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm