

# **North Outfall Allotment Association**

## **AGM**

**18<sup>TH</sup> October 2021**

**7.30pm Bilton Cricket Club**

20 Attendee's

### **Apologies.**

Trevor White, Scott Turner, Lynn Carling, Janice Wilcockson, Dawn Monkman, Lee DePledge, Heather Adderley.

### **Minutes of Last AGM.**

7<sup>TH</sup> October 2019 – The minutes of this meeting were taken as a true record.

Proposed by Peter Sanderson and seconded by Michelle DePledge

### **Matters Arising.**

No matters to be discussed.

### **Chairman's Report.**

Thanked everyone for coming and relayed how there was not a great deal to report due to Covid 19 dominating the previous year.

Requested that all dogs on site were to be kept on a lead and on owners own plot.

Note from the floor – it was requested that in future more notice of the annual site inspection be given for working plot holders to sufficiently allow time to get their plots into shape beforehand.

### **Treasurers Report.**

It was reported that there was rental income of £3530.00 taken for the year with £65.00 being paid towards water contributions.

Maintenance costs were quite high due to machinery and gate lock repairs.

The annual insurance for the site had risen by only £5.00 on the previous year and rent payable to HBC had increased from £422.50 per quarter to £440.00 per quarter.

### **Membership Secretary Report.**

2 tenants have unfortunately been evicted due to breaking terms of tenancy with one tenant who is being reduced from a half to a quarter plot due to not maintaining it to required standard and one tenant who has resigned for personal reasons.

### **Web Admin Report.**

Emails and website working as they should, and the website will be going through a few changes in the next couple of months.

The meeting minutes section will be updated, and all relevant allotment documents will be re-uploaded to the site.

The website will also have a new section added to help with the plot waiting list.

For the social media side of the allotments if anyone has any images they wouldn't mind being uploaded to the NOAA Facebook or NOAA Instagram please could they be sent to [webadmin@noaaharrogate.org.uk](mailto:webadmin@noaaharrogate.org.uk).

It would be nice to start having more pictures to post and promote our site.

### **Presentation of Trophy.**

Lynn Carling was the winner of the Bill Lodge trophy this year but was not present at the meeting, but sincere congratulations were offered for a win after many 2<sup>nd</sup> place over the last few years.

### **Proposed Amendments to Constitution.**

It was explained that these were typing errors to be corrected and that there were no actual amendments to constitution itself being made.

It was requested that this corrected edition be added to the website so it would be accessible to all, and it was agreed that this would be done.

## **Election of Trustees, Officers, Committee Members and Auditor.**

Robin Adderley was elected as Trustee with James Nichols as 1<sup>st</sup> proposer and Peter Sanderson as 2nd.

Elected members of the committee are currently –

Trustee – Peter Sanderson

Trustee/Committee member – Robin Adderley

Trustee/Chairman/Membership Secretary – Gary Sibson

Vice Chairman – Lee DePledge

Admin Secretary/Treasurer – Michelle DePledge

Web/Admin – Scott Turner

Auditor- Andrew Ferguson

Committee member – Lee Blackshaw

Committee member - James Nichols as HDAF Rep.

Anita Nichols queried if there were enough members on the committee to which everyone agreed yes there was.

## **Manure Scheme**

The shed fund has now overtaken the running of the manure scheme to make the small profit it is now earning into a source of income for the shed fund.

It was stated that a new source for the manure was being looked at as the current supplier is in poor health and it is not known how long we can expect them to keep supplying us.

The issue of the size of delivery tractor will have to be a factor and obviously the price but everyone will be kept informed as developments take place.

## **A.O.B.**

The fence that runs along the manure and plot 22BQ1 will be being replaced over the next few months.

We have a suspected Badger on site, a large pit with natural ablutions has been found and it was discussed what could be done about this.

The point was discussed that really very little as they are protected but it is felt that the set is not actually on site, it was mentioned that a neighbour to the site may have caught it on camera with Gary stating he would like to investigate setting up a nature cam but finding equipment and time was a factor.

Judy Popplewell stated she had mentioned it to the local Badger group, but little response had been made and so it was left as not a lot could be done.

A request to all plot holders was put out to help with maintaining the site. It currently falls on the shoulders of a very small group of people (Gary and his sons James and George) who are finding it harder to find the time and it would be very appreciated if others could help especially with the mowing of the path in communal areas and it was suggested that when people are mowing their paths that they do a bit extra to try to lighten the load for someone else – any volunteers please step up !!

The current garage is in a dreadful state of disrepair and is going to be replaced hopefully with a shipping container which will not only be more secure provide longevity and a charitable grant towards the cost of this is being investigated as at the moment they are at a premium with prices rising from £2/£2500 to £4/4500 due to the pandemic.

Any further news on this will be passed on as received.

The shed fund has now a total of £1650.00 in the pot and with the price of wood currently at its highest in decades we can hope to add to it in the coming year with more fundraising taking place, Covid allowing and possibly add it to the grant request.

Judy Popplewell queried what was happening about the trees along the top path that have been damaged by Ash die back fungal disease with HBC only managing to get a small amount of the damaged trees cut before it was the end of the working day and the cherry picker they required not being available after that, Gary stated that he had spoken to a Stuart at the HBC and that they cannot justify hiring one again until they have a full day's work for it at NOAA and that the trees being cut back was still on their job list to be done and that HBC was in the process of buying their own cherry picker which would speed things up but no date was given. Point was made that the branches are now dangerous and at risk of falling and causing damage.

Chris Dunn has requested that if anyone finds any saplings on their plot could they pot them up in a suitable container and Bilton Conservation Officer Mr Warren Considine would collect them and pass on to HBC.

He also stated that whilst some of the plots on site are kept immaculate it was unfortunate that the paths between them were getting smaller which was proving a problem for access especially for wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

Help for Chris to widen his own path was offered but it was doubtful that everyone on site would be agreed or be prepared to give up parts of their current crops/move sheds/structures etc. to accommodate this but Chris felt there should be a minimum width to all public paths on site.

It was explained that there is only one official path between the two public main paths on the site and they are kept to a minimum width with the others being put in place by plot holders themselves on their plots over the many decades the site has operated.

Burn weekend will take place on the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> however if this weekend was too wet then the following weekend would be acceptable.

The water will be turned off after the second burn weekend.

New taps are needed at some of the water points, and this will be addressed before the spring.

The new gate is still going to be fitted at the northern fence however whilst progress is ongoing its slow!

There is no increase in plot fee's this year with Andy Nichols stating that a full plot was only £70 but it was pointed out that due to plot fee's increasing in 2020 it was in fact £75.00 so to recap –

Quarter plot = £30.00

Half plot = £45.00

¾ Plot = £60.00

Full plot = £75.00.

If you would like to pay by Bacs, then the details you will need are –

**North Outfall Allotment Association**

**Account – 21988168**

**Sort – 77-71-31**

Manure and Woodchip is £1.00 a barrow.

Peter Sanderson requested that all seed orders for Kings be handed in ASAP.

Meeting ended.

