

TIDBURY GREEN PARISH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on

Thursday 10 January 2013 at 8pm

Cheswick Green Village Hall

Present:

J. Marshall (Chairman), Brian Wood (Secretary), L. Wardell (Treasurer)
Committee members: R. Lippett, P. Townsend, D. Reade, J. Dennison,

Members present: M. Dennison, J. Wardell, T. McCabe, S. McCabe, J. Corbett, J. Mitchell, D. Millichamp, A. Millichamp, A. Inwood, C. Inwood, K. Norton, E. Child, M. Howard, P. Fellows, D. Matson, C. Duffill, L. Reade, S. Vaughan, J. Vaughan, H. Hawkes, R. Hawkes, B. Fellows

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Hon Secretary welcomed new member Catherine Duffill who had Plot 20A.

Apologies had been received from new members Gary Suter and Richard Atkinson and also from Vernon Smith and Paul Wilmott.

2. MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

It was proposed by D. Millichamp that the Minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 12 January, 2012, be accepted. Seconded by D. Matson. Approved unanimously.

3. MATTERS ARISING

The Orchard - The Hon Secretary reported that the application for the tree saplings was successful and the Association had been granted 105 saplings. These were planted with a good attendance from members and also representation from the Parish Council and press. Light refreshments were provided together with a display of Jubilee bunting. The Committee has decided that more fruit trees will be purchased and planted.

The Woodland Trust who provided the trees has a website and there is a book where entries of all the plantings taken place around the country are listed and this will be handed to the Queen to mark her Jubilee.

In respect of last year's item in the AGM on the massive increase in water usage and the possible provision of water butts, the Parish Council has made an offer of £100 towards the purchase of the butts, but the Committee has decided it would not be practicable as members would prefer to use the present system than water butts. Also, not everyone has a shed and could not collect water. The offer from the Council would probably only cover the purchase of two water butts and generally people would prefer to pay a bit more on the rent.

The Hon Secretary made mention of the list of safety points circulated with the last minutes. One issue was the seat in the orchard which was unsafe. Unfortunately, before there was a chance to remove it the seat collapsed completely, however, it has now been replaced.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had nothing to report.

5. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Hon Secretary reported that it had been a very difficult season weather-wise and particularly for those who work as a number of consecutive weekends were very wet. However, on the upside there was much less use of the stand pipes.

A new mower has been purchased from a local supplier in Hockley Heath and also a new strimmer.

The poor season was reflected in the exhibits in the Annual Flower & Vegetable Show which were down on previous years, but still successful and attendance was up on recent years which may be due to more publicity, ie Solihull Times, flyers, etc.

A good trip to Windsor was organised by Joy and Mike Dennison once again, who are open to suggestions for a trip this year.

There has been an issue about the condition of plots and various members have expressed their concern. The Committee met on site before Christmas and checked the plots and in one or two cases were not satisfied as very little work had been done. Action has been taken concerning these plots and in one case the Committee has cancelled the tenancy. It was pointed out that the Association has a responsibility to the Parish Council and there is also a small waiting list. The waiting list is currently three people, the lowest it has been for quite some time. Generally the plots are pretty good.

The Hon Secretary asked members for email addresses to help keep costs down.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that the major concern from the previous year was the massive increase in water rates. Thanks to mother nature and the banning of sprinklers the water consumption was considerably less this past year resulting in a reduction in the charges.

Maintenance for the year was £58 as opposed to £168 the previous year as there were no major repairs to rotovators. The lawnmower was, in fact, purchased in last year. Only £31 was spent on maintaining equipment this year which is very good. Money has been saved on the cutting of the hedges thanks to Rob Hawkes who trimmed both the road hedge and the hedge at the bottom of the plot. A new strimmer was purchased at a cost of £170 and Lew Griffin has sole use of it. Also a donation was received from former plot holder Bill Needle and it has been agreed that more fruit trees will be purchased and designated as Bill Needle trees. There was £10 expenditure on the Jubilee planting day. The year ended with £1194 available in the Bank and Building Society. This time last year was £794.

The accounts were proposed by J. Marshall and seconded by J. Dennison. Approved unanimously.

A letter has been received from the Halifax where an account is held solely with the deposits that everyone pays. The Halifax would prefer us to close the account as we do not use the account. If members agree, the account will be cancelled, but the Treasurer will make sure the deposit money is kept aside in the bank account to cover deposits. There were no objections.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All existing officers were willing to continue. The Hon Secretary asked the members if anyone else wished to join the Committee. There were no nominations. All existing Committee members were re-elected. This was proposed by D. Millichamp and seconded by P. Fellows. Approved unanimously.

8. AMENDMENT TO TENANCY AGREEMENT

The Hon Secretary read out the proposed amendment to the Tenancy Agreement (new clause 2.11) concerning water usage on the allotment which should take account of all the issues that members raised at the last AGM:

'No person except a member of Committee is authorised to operate the main water stop cock situated just inside the main gate, nor is it permissible to use water from an allotment site tap for purposes other than watering ones plot while the plot holder is present on site. The use of sprinklers is not permitted'.

It was unanimously accepted.

9. RENTS

The Treasurer reported a recommendation from the Committee that the rents are increased. The orchard at the bottom of the plot, which looks superb, but it is hard work to maintain the grass which John Marshall has been cutting for several years. This is now becoming too much work and it was decided that an outside contractor be hired who will mow the orchard area and the top car park once month or when required (April to October), so we will be in control of who is doing the mowing. To cover the cost, the Committee is proposing an increase in the rents to £5 per plot. This will mean for those under 60 years of age £25 per year and those over 60 years of age £15. There are presently thirteen members under 60 years of age and twenty-four members over 60 years of age so think it is a fair increase of £5 across the board for each plot. The Hon Secretary had looked at Solihull Council website and they were charging £33.23 for half a plot and £48.42 for a full plot for last year, which was more than the Committee is proposing. D. Millichamp raised the issue that not everyone contributes at the Quiz Night or the Annual Flower & Vegetable Show so raising the rent means that everyone contributes across the board. It was accepted by the members.

10. PROPOSAL TO GIVE COMMITTEE MANDATE TO DECIDE FUTURE PLOT RENTALS

The Treasurer asked the members for their permission to be able to increase the rents without a twelve month notice period as is presently required enabling the Committee to raise the rents when it feels it is necessary. Proposed by L. Wardell and seconded by T. McCabe.

There was a general discussion and members agreed subject to a limit to the increase of £5. Over that figure there must be prior consultation with members.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman gave a word of thanks to Rob Hawkes for his help with the hedges and to Mike and Joy Dennison for their work on the orchard.

The Treasurer announced that there will be a Quiz Night this year which will be held at Cheswick Green Village Hall - Tidbury Green Village Hall was not available - on Wednesday 17 April at 8pm but will be more of a social event. A fish and chip supper has been organised from the Cranmore Fish & Chip shop at a cost of £3.50 and £25 for the village hall. Tickets will be £4 each. The Committee is not asking for any raffle prizes, these will be purchased, but did ask that raffle prizes be given for the Annual Flower & Vegetable

Show. It is intended that the Quiz Night will be a social event basically and non-profit making. There will be a general quiz, music quiz, gardening quiz and Millie's famous picture quiz. There are fifty seats available.

The Hon Secretary thanked everyone for attending the AGM and hoped that it will be a better season this year for all.

Meeting closed at 8.38pm.