

TIDBURY GREEN PARISH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on

Wednesday 21 January 2015 at 8pm, Cheswick Green Village Hall

Present: D Millichamp (Chairman) B Wood (Hon Secretary) Leighton Wardell (Hon Treasurer) Derek Reade, Roy Lippett, Joy Dennison (Committee members). Lyn Reade, Sally McCabe, Tony McCabe, Caroline Inwood, Tony Inwood, Mike Dennison, Jean Wardell, Ann Millichamp, John Corbett, G Suter, Karen Norton, Steve Norton, Jerry Mitchell, P Fellows, Marilyn Howard, John Marshall, Becky Hall, Garry Coffey, Rob Hawkes, Brian Lintern.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alan Wylde, Steve Byrne, Clive Earp, Martina Quinn-Reay and John Hedigan. No-one was able to attend from the Parish Council due to a pre-arranged Parish meeting.

2. MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

The Minutes of the last AGM held on 15th January 2014 had been circulated and were accepted.

Proposer: P. Fellows Seconded: J.Marshall.

3. MATTERS ARISING

New notice board provided.

Safety notes circulated and placed on Notice board.

Competition for children included in Annual Show programme but participation disappointing despite publicity and invitation to local schools.

4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman said he wished to focus on three areas of concern to him.

Firstly, although the condition of some plots were acceptable, there remained several that had not been cultivated in the spirit of the Association Rules including those covered in polythene and carpet for long periods of time. In addition, he said that pathways between plots were not always being kept clear of obstructions thus causing safety hazards. He said that in future there would be close monitoring of plots and it was the responsibility of members to notify the Secretary of issues such as sickness which prevented them from complying with the terms of the Agreement they had signed. On the positive side, the Chairman praised all those volunteer members including Becky's bees for their work in maintaining the orchard and wildflower garden and in particular Joy and Mike Dennison.

Secondly, he called for more support from members for the Associations activities particularly the Annual Show and the sale of raffle tickets. He said that only in this way would it be possible to maintain the current relatively low rents currently enjoyed by members. On their behalf he said he wished to thank all those involved in organising the Show and particularly Jean and Leighton Wardell.

Finally, the Chairman said that fresh blood was needed on the Committee and he appealed to members to volunteer to serve. There was currently a vacancy following the resignation of Peter Townsend.

5. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary said that the only comment he would make on the Chairmans Report on the Annual Show was that while the overall attendance had been good, particularly by the public, the number of entries by members in the various show classes had been disappointing and significantly down on the previous year. He appealed to members to take part regardless of the quality of their produce.

There were currently no names on the waitlist for plots and therefore appropriate notices would be placed on the Parish website and in the Village News.

The Parish Council had commissioned a tree survey and accordingly 3 diseased trees (situated between the bottom hedge and the ditch) had been lopped during the past Autumn at the PCs expense. In this connection, Joy Dennison said that there were trees on the fence line between the site and the garden of No.9 Mason Lane which she considered unstable and constituted a safety hazard. The Secretary said that he, together with the Parish Council, considered these to be the responsibility of the householder but he would check as a matter of urgency.

The next Quiznite will be on Wednesday 15th April at Cheswick Green Village Hall following the very successful event last year. The evening will include a fish and chip supper at £5.50 per head and will start at 8pm. Requests for bookings to Leighton Wardell.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasure highlighted the significant issues in his attached Report and presented it to the meeting for formal approval which was proposed by John Marshall and seconded by Marilyn Howard.

7. CULTIVATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PLOTS

This issue was covered by the Chairman in his Report above.

8. BONFIRES

The Secretary reminded the meeting that the lighting of bonfires was strictly forbidden by the Association unless authorised by a member of the Committee. Normally this would be restricted to once a year on 5th November for the purpose of burning any none compostable waste from the site.

Complaints had been made last October to the Parish Council by a neighbour of our site that bonfires had been lighted and this had caused smoke smuts to appear on her washing. Furthermore, it was reported to the Secretary by the neighbour concerned that the fire service had attended and had expressed their concern that the fires had been left smouldering and unattended. The incident was immediately investigated and those members responsible had been admonished. The Parish Clerk and the neighbour concerned were duly informed and our apologies were given.

9. FACILITY FOR COMPOST.

The Treasurer presented a proposal that a concrete slab enclosure be erected on the edge of the bottom car park area (adjacent to Plot 20B) at an approximate cost of £900 for the storage of redundant vegetation for composting. This would have the benefit of releasing a plot(s) for letting and would be a tidier solution.

After general discussion, it was decided not to pursue the proposal at the present time on the basis of cost and the view that the present arrangements were satisfactory. Deryck Reade expressed the opinion that ploholders could and should compost more of their own material.

10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All existing officers had said that they were willing to continue serving. The Chairman asked the members if anyone else wished to join the Committee as there was currently a vacancy following the resignation earlier of Peter Townsend. Rob Hawkes duly volunteered and acceptance was proposed by Deryck Reade and seconded by Leighton Wardell.

The following were therefore approved to serve the Association. Proposed by John Marshall and seconded by Tony Inwood.

David Millichamp – Chairman

Brian Wood – Secretary

Leighton Wardell – Treasurer

Committee Members – Joy Dennison, Deryck Reade, Roy Lippett and Rob Hawkes

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Annual Show

Referring back to the Secretary's Report, Marilyn Howard expressed the view that attendance at the Show might be improved if a Saturday other than a bank holiday weekend was chosen for the Show.

After general discussion and in the absence of any proposal to the contrary, it was decided that the Show this year should be held on Saturday 29th August as currently planned.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Brian Wood

Hon. Sec.

9.2.15.