

Annual General Meeting 14th April 2022 held at Starbeck W.M.C.

Present: - 35 Members

Apologies: - John Tasker, David Reid, Keith Ryder, Jim Bean, Carolyn Addison, Katy Sutton, Charles McNutt, Sheila Manning, David Cooper, John Rodrigues.

Secretary, David Brockhurst opened the meeting at 7:15 pm.

The minutes of the 2020 AGM were looked at and agreed, noting that some changes had taken place between the 2020 and the 2022 meeting.

Secretaries report.

I opened the meeting by thanking Jim Bean from me and John Tasker for his work as secretary prior to my taking over. I would also like to thank both John and Jim for their continued help as I settled into the role of secretary.

Item 1: - communication. Since I took on the role of secretary I have worked on trying to keep all tenants up to date with the everyday events, this has included putting up some new notice boards, regular email communications and setting up a recent website (still in development), if anyone has any thoughts or ideas including writing an article for our website please get in touch as any extra input will be greatly appreciated. www.standrewsallotments.co.uk

Item 2: – ground maintenance. Due to the lack of use of the mower and strimmers by tenants the committee along with members/volunteers are now going to mow and trim all of the main access pathways, although not mentioned during the meeting I have found a few paths off the main paths difficult to access using the mower and would still expect some input from adjacent plot holder to help us keep the site tidy, we now have two electric strimmers available and these can be obtained through either David Brockhurst or June Scott (note batteries are charged and kept indoors rather than in the tool-shed), for the use of any of the other machines a tool-shed keyholder list will be displayed on the shed door and on the composting toilet notice board.

Item 3: – waste disposal. In the past scrap metal was left at the end of the south side site between the allotment and Starbeck Mission, however having noticed that this was now becoming abused with sheets of plywood and other non-scrap items being left I have arranged to have scrap metal collected directly from our main gateway at the back of the shed, this will be done through arrangement, I will contact tenants to leave any items at an arranged time for collection.

Item 4: - unwanted items. Having noted that items not wanted such as compost bins and water-butts that were left near the composting toilet for others to take, unfortunately other items that should have been removed from the site (hoover pipe and plastic container lids) have also been left. Rather than encourage bad practice by dumping items I would prefer that tenants contact me and I will advertise the useful items on the notice boards and on the website.

Item 5: - Harrogate and District Allotment Federation show. The HDAF show is to be held on Sunday 21st August, more details will follow closer to the date, one of the items discussed was the competition theme for each site is based on the colour Purple. It was also noted that David Woolveridge is our site representative and any offers to support David will be greatly appreciated. At the 2021 show St Andrews achieved a Silver Certificate and one of our tenants, Mick Nadin won the Harrogate Council shield for the best plot in the district.

Item 6: - other points of discussion. We briefly discussed holding an event on the National Allotment week however we had differences of opinion in relation to public or a tenant only event, this proved to be inconclusive and will be looked at further prior to August.

As a tip I asked that those who use the plastic compost bins not to fully empty as during high winds these are becoming blown around the site with bins, lids and doors getting lost. Leaving a bit in the bottom acts as ballast.

Treasurers Report

Our finances are in good order, and we have a healthy bank balance, we expect higher water rates this year along with some other price rises however we will still have a good working balance. It was suggested that we hold an amount aside along with our everyday working expenses for any unseen expenses.

As we have a good bank balance, I mentioned that one of our tenants (Martin Harrison) had recently made a long journey to Poland in support of the Ukrainian refugee situation and proposed that we could support his charity by making a £100 donation from our funds, this was put to the vote and all in attendance agreed. This donation has now been made.

Election of Officers.

John Tasker has now decided to stand down as Chairman and June Scott was voted in and has now replaced John as Chair. I would like to thank both Jim Bean for his support during my early days as secretary and to John Tasker for all his help and encouragement whilst chairman. I would also wish to say thank you to all committee members and tenants for your support and making my job that bit more welcoming.

Other business

Discussed fox on site and number of rats, we will look at rat traps or poison (note: - dangers with poison). We will acquire some rat traps for tenants whilst also look at regulations in relation to pest control (noting children, pets on site and the possibility of Red Kites eating poisoned rats). We also looked at the recent ban on the use of Metaldehyde slug pellets, now replaced with Ferrous Phosphate slug pellets.

Trees overhanging from Belmont field are a problem due to hanging over plots and concern about the probability of falling branches causing damage or injury. I will write to the council documenting problems along with providing photo evidence.

The meeting closed at 8:15