

AGM minutes Jan 22 2024.

June Scott chair opened the meeting at 7:15.

1. Vandalism – unfortunately this has proved to be a continued problem throughout the year, the police have been informed and I have had 3 onsite meetings to discuss our concerns. Anyone who experiences any vandalism can report it to the secretary however apart from logging it no other action is possible. It is up to each tenant to report any vandalism individually to the police, this way each incident is given a separate crime number. I am informed that the police are now doing impromptu visits to the site. The tenants from Plot 2e who has reported repeated vandalism on their plot informed the meeting that have had a home visit from the police about their concerns.
2. Commuted Sums/Fund – St Andrews Allotments has been awarded - £837.10. Monies to be spent on a specific project. The committee looked at a few ideas and went with providing an accessible pathway to support wheelchair access, although the length of the path we looked at was only 27mtr the cost has proven to be more than 3 times the allocated amount. This money needs to be used by the end of this year 2024. It was suggested that rather than abandon the accessible pathway it may be possible to achieve the same goal by costing and doing the work ourselves. Note – following the meeting (whilst chatting with those present) some ideas were put forward and these will be passed onto the committee for consideration.
3. Site maintenance 1 – ongoing task such as strimming plot edges and mowing the paths has been done throughout the year by committee members and some plot holders. However, the pathways and the edging of the plots will now be the tenant's responsibility – note: - item 3 on the Tenancy Agreement - The tenants shall keep all hedges, ditches, fences, gates and footpaths on their side of the allotment (Except main boundary fences) in a good state of repair. This includes keeping the borders of your plot and pathways tidy and free from weeds, and to regularly prune any fruit trees and shrubs overhanging pathways. Note: - if anyone has any difficulty with this can they please contact the secretary, to support those with difficulties can anyone who would like to volunteer to help with the mowing can they also contact the secretary. See any other business (following) re access issues.
4. Site maintenance 2 – Fence and shed repairs – On behalf of the association I would like to thank Andrew Whipp for his support with this, he has and is doing an excellent job with the gate and fence repairs, I have also received some positive comments from other tenants in relation to his professional workmanship. This is an ongoing task and will continue into this and following years.
5. Machinery – we sold some unwanted items and the monies have been used for a variety of small items, we received £100 for two items, the monies have been spent on petty cash items with £17.17 remaining, this will be possibly used for petrol for the lawn mowers.
6. Site Judging for Harrogate in Bloom – Last year St Andrew Allotments received a silver certificate in the site judging, we were only one point from achieving a gold, the committee will look at the site judging criteria breakdown sheet and look at where improvements can be made.

7. Waiting list – our waiting list has increased from 30 people last year to 52 to date, note - some the original 30 are now tenants, we also have a small number of plots that have recently become vacant and will be let to new tenants on the waiting list.

The treasures report – Sarah Leng.

Our closing balance of 2023 was £1862.82 which is what has been brought forward to 2024. So far we have paid out £413.76. following all outgoing payments our Balance as of 15/02/23 is £1449.06.

Chair notes – June Scott.

June organised last year's picnic on the allotment, this was well attended and enjoyed by all. This year we are looking at organising a couple of similar allotment events, June will again organise the events however ideas and support would be appreciated in organising, contributing, and setting up on the day. Details will be sent out closer to the dates decided.

Election of committee members.

We have had a change within the committee with two members standing down along with myself as secretary and Sarah Leng as Chair. I would like to thank David Evans and Keith Ryder for their work on the committee and thank you to Sarah Leng for your ongoing support as the allotment treasurer.

Welcome to our new Secretary Mick Nadin and the new treasurer Andrew Spence.

With note in regards of replacing the two committee members the site constitution was referred to which indicated that we had taken on two member over the said number and therefore didn't elect any new members. As we had one person who expressed that they would like to join the committee the constitution will be reviewed at the next committee meeting.

Any other business

The work on the tree pruning was brought up with reference to the cost and work, this was previously included in last year's AGM and in one of our committee members meetings, see minutes of 2023 AGM.

Damage to the fencing between the allotment and Belmont Park. Damage to a fence post was done at the time the trees were pruned, I have taken responsibility of any issues relating to this.

Damage to the fence between the allotment and Belmont Park. The fence was cut through from the top to bottom, a temporary repair was done at the time and this was reported to the council.

Access to the toolshed. A few concerns were brought up in relation to item 3 on these minutes as to how to access the mowers and or strimmers. this will be reviewed at the next committee meeting and information on access will follow.

Thank you for your support as Secretary over the past four years.
David Brockhurst