

**Draft Minutes of Alloment Annual General Meeting
Saturday 21st October 2017**

Present:

David Johnson
Ian Symonds
Elizabeth Adams
Helen Marriage
Tom Alley
Safi Ferrah
Paul Carter
Debbie Fogarty
John Callant
Jane Hodgkin
Clive Herring
Joy Herring

Jerry Foulkes
Natasha Gavin
Marina Cassimati
Stephen Cole
Geraldine Oudin
Maggie Mizzi
Donna Moore
Steve Craik
Andrea Miller
Lynne Casey
Susan Janikowski

Apologies:

Kevin Newson
Jean Newson
Paula Weeks
Heinrich Pycz
Tom Challenor
Jane Challenor

1. AGM Minutes of 15th October 2016 were approved
2. There were no matters arising
3. Report on activities:

Work parties

Took place on first Saturday of each month – thanks were given to all who had participated.

Council new rules are now requiring everyone to do one community work day per year of 2 hours.

Everyone who came to pay rent in October was shown a copy of the new rules. It may be necessary to take a register of who attends work parties.

For those who cannot make Saturdays there are jobs that can be done at other times.

List of jobs to be put on the board in the Orchard.

General meetings

3 have taken place in December, March and August (instead of June) which have been well attended.

Raised beds

8 have been completed, there are 8 left to do.

The raised beds are normally done outside the work parties.

Dead Hedge

Has been implemented at the Ranelagh Road side of the site for waste work party material (NB not for individual waste) as part of the initiative to reduce bonfires.

Bonfires

Helen Marriage reported on the response from the survey.

47 people responded; 10 were for banning bonfires, 37 against.

There is an agreement with Grange School that no bonfires are to be lit Monday to Friday 8:00 – 16:30.

Ideas discussed were:

Education via posters that no inappropriate material is to be burnt on bonfires

Hire shredder or skip – these would need organisers

Windsock so that we can see wind direction

Annual bonfire for work parties at the AGM

Installation of water supply

Clay oven is now up and running and used at the AGM.

Coordinators

Financial Report (Ian Symonds)

Report to be circulated with the minutes.

Summary:

- Income was £20,500: this was the total income from all sources, including donations, the balance of the ward forum grant and other items (see income and expenditure statement)
- Expenditure £21,082:

85% goes to Ealing Council: £17,200

£3,800 expended on gardening equipment, electrical work, orchard.

Expenditure exceeded income by £581.

Insurance claim money will come in later in year

Council to do fencing / plumbing

Signage £239

Available funds were £2,397 at end September

Inventory of equipment is kept by the Friends.

It was noted that the Council set the rents.

Thanks were given to Lynne Casey, who made a donation of £67.50

Meetings Coordinator (David Johnson)

Thanks to all those who helped out with rent collection this year

Special thanks was given to Jennifer Woodhouse for her very generous donation of £250 – need to decide what to spend this on.

Thanks to all coordinators.

Communications Coordinator (Safi Ferrah)

Electricity has been installed in lockups and a shipping container (cost £1,500) is being investigated to improve security

One more communications coordinator is required – Paul Carter offered to do this.

Waiting list (Helen Marriage)

There have been 8 plot letting sessions – thanks to all who have helped.

It was noted that having reached the top of the waiting lists people often come to view plots with unrealistic expectations; Jane Hodgkin has put together a list to make people aware of what they need to expect. Thanks were given to Jane.

The list could be referenced on facebook.

Landscape fabric could be put down on unlet plots at a working party until plots are let. 6 plots are deemed 'unlettable'.

35 plots have been let, (one 3 times), 9 are remaining.

There have been around 6 notices to quit in a year, Steve Cole noted there used to be around 30.

Composting toilet

Clive Herring is looking into this.

Joseph Mangan is the EAP contact. Mention of £800 or £1,600 per site.

It uses electric batteries – must have access to the sun.

Work is required for preparing the ground.

AOB

Clive Herring reported that the historic tools which have been found on the site are

Mesolithic. Clive to forward details to Paul Carter for facebook.

Facebook link is:

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofascottallotments/>

The shop remains open.

Next meeting to be held around December solstice, date to be advised.