

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES OF
ALLOTMENTS FOR THE LABOURING POOR**

Charity 1061864

Incorporating Woodcote Allotments Stewardship committee's Annual Meeting.

Tuesday 2nd October 2018 7.30pm Woodcote Village Hall

Present:

Trustees –G. Botting Chairman, M. Smith, B. Williams, A. Crockett, P. Sudbury.

Allotment Stewardship Committee – R. Brightman, L. Booth, N. Bridge, S. Maguire, D. Franklin.

1. Apologies for Absence

Trustees R. Peirce, D. Booth, S. McGurk, Plot holder Mr. I. Moss.

2. Approve Minutes from Annual Meeting 17th October 2017.

Approved. No matters arising.

3. Woodcote Allotment Stewardship Committee Chairman's Report

Site Inspections

We extended the scope of the inspections to cover the whole site (fences, hedges, water troughs, access tracks, etc as well as plots)

Undertaken several inspections throughout the Spring and Summer

- most plots have been kept in good order
- a couple of plots where the tenants had been unable to work the plots and had become completely overgrown with weeds (dandelions, thistles, groundsel, teasels, etc) and, with the tenant's agreement, we have strimmed and weed-killed these
- it is frustrating when people renew their tenancy for several years always promising that they will be able to work their plot in the next few weeks, but fail to do anything, they then give up their plot and leave behind a complete mess
- a few plot holders have had to be reminded to cut down weeds and grasses going to seed - some people seem to overlook grass going to seed as a problem, often failing to cut the pathways around their plots

Skips

We had 2 skips over the year - one in April, primarily for new tenants clearing their plots, and one in late-Autumn to clear away surplus material that cannot be easily composted (bean straw, sunflower stalks, sweetcorn and brassica stalks, fruit bush prunings, broken canes, etc).

Both have been filled, with no obvious signs of anyone disposing of non-allotment material. Although expensive, the skips are well received and appreciated, especially by tenants who would struggle to take rubbish to Oakley Wood

Subject to finances, we will need a skip for late-October/early-November this year.

Plant & Seed Swap

We hold this each year in April. It isn't an actual 'swap', i.e. you don't have to 'give' in order to 'take', it's an opportunity for people with surplus seedlings or spare seed to pass them on to other tenants rather than throw them away. It also serves as a social occasion allowing tenants to get to know each other.

Spare Produce

Once again we have had collections of spare produce that we have taken over to whoever is running that week's Coffee Shop. Donated produce this year has been rhubarb, runner beans, french beans, tomatoes, beetroot, and courgettes.

Other items

There have been several instances of boys climbing over the gate by the cricket store to take a short-cut across the allotments, despite this gate having rather vicious metal spikes on the top. The Village Green committee, via Sam Peates, have stopped this by raising the height of the gate, and there have been no reported instances of boys climbing over the gate since then. Thanks to VG committee for taking prompt action.

A couple of ball floats in the water troughs shattered last winter, causing the troughs to overflow, these were replaced and the problem fixed. We will need to check the condition of the remaining ball floats before this winter, and replace if they have become brittle.

The pipe insulation on most of the troughs is starting to disintegrate (old age!), and will need replacing this autumn

Some of the troughs are due for a clean-out to remove the build-up of soil and other debris.

The BT hedge has been cut back to its proper height, and it now looks very neat. The hedges around the rest of allotment now need cutting, assuming finances are available for this work, has a date been agreed for the work?

Thanks to Jenny Welham for organising skips, grass cutting, and the hedge cutting, and for doing all the admin work for the allotments.

4. Questions from Plot Holders

There were no immediate questions.

5. Finance

The Clerk gave an update on the current finance for this Financial Year starting April 1st 2018 finishing 31st March 2019. The current account has a balance of £6,497.72. the income is at £2,343 and the costs are £1,272. There will be further costs for a skip in October, and the Management fee that will include the grass cutting and hedge cutting. This will mean the expenditure will exceed the income. However, there is a healthy amount in the current account to cover this, but the income needs to meet the expenditure year on year.

The financial reports are available from the Clerk on request.
The Trustees approved the accounts.

6. Rentals

There are currently 3 vacant plots, these are advertised. A new enquiry has been received for one of the three and the Clerk anticipates only 2 vacant by the end of the week.

Rental amount was discussed currently at £0.27p per square metre.
The Trustees agreed not to increase the rental for the next Financial Year 2019/2020, but rentals will be reviewed annually.

7. Other Matters for Trustees to Consider.

The Clerk advised that following GDPR the ASC will need a privacy policy as personal information is passed from the Clerk to them regarding plot holders names and addresses emails etc.

It was agreed that the current Parish Council privacy policy could be adapted to meet their needs. It would then be published on the Allotment page of the website.

Date for next meeting first week of October 2019, day and date to be finalized.

