

Annual General Meeting
Saturday 5th April 2014 @ 2pm
The Quaker Meeting House, Corporation Lane

1) Present:

Simon Howard (Chair)	Plot 19
Matt Lush (Treasurer)	Plot 8
Charlotte Cluderay (Secretary)	Plot 26
Katherine Howard	Plot 19
Clare Owen	Plots 4 + 5
John Herbert + Beverly Fry	Plot 25
Tony Lord	Plots 16 + 17
Claire Kirby	Plots 11 + 37
Ben Brown	Plot 40
Alistair Black	Plot 13
Kay Hawkins + Charlie Bell	Plots 21 + 22
Martin Welch	Plot 50
Ron Millar	Plots 1 + 2

Apologies:

Phil + Libby Oliver (Plots 15 + 18), Doreen Hancock (Plots 20 + 36), Charles Mansell (Plot 49), Mike Houghton (Plot 43), Tim Kirkby (Plots 11 + 37).

Simon Howard (SH) thanked all attendees for coming and welcomes them to the 3rd AGM of CCAA.

2) Minutes from last AGM

Charlotte Cluderay ran through a brief synopsis of the minutes from 2013 AGM and reviewed the actions which had arisen from the meeting. All attendees agreed these were a fair reflection of the meeting held 1st June, 2013.

3) Site Security

SH mentioned that we seem to be at the start of the time of year where we had break-ins at the site in 2013. A reminder was issued to ploholders to be vigilant with locking the gates to the site and the communal shed.

Claire suggested that the padlock on the main gate may be left open on some occasions as it is hard to lock it.

SH to provide a can of WD40 to be kept in communal shed, in case it is getting stuck.

Since the installation of CCTV cameras last year, we aren't aware of any more break ins, but SH reminded ploholders that sheds have been broken into in the past with nothing stolen, which would suggest they didn't contain anything of value to the burglars. Therefore, it was suggested that people don't cover their windows, in order that people can see there is nothing of value in a shed, which may make it less likely that they will be broken into.

4) Election of Officers

No nominations received, so all committee members re-elected unopposed. However, the committee informed that due to a change in circumstances, SH will have less time to devote to the role, and Matt Lush may be moving during the course of the year. Should Matt Lush move away, CCAA will require a replacement Treasurer in accordance with the site constitution.

ML ran through the list of duties covered by the Treasurer role which include:
Creating an annual report for the AGM, Bank Account maintenance, Insurance renewals, communication with Balfours and landlord regarding plot rental increases and committee meetings, which are usually every couple of months.

If anyone would be interested in taking on any part of this role, please let the committee know.

There are also some non-committee roles. Currently, Phil Oliver as Fire Warden, who is happy to continue, and Alex in a Site Security role.

5) Update on Constitution and Site Rules

No changes to be made this year to the Constitution.

Although no changes to be made to the site rules either, SH ran through some of the issues which have arisen over the past year and reminded members to be vigilant when leaving the site that gates were locked.

Members were also asked to minimise vehicular access to the site, and not to bring any vehicles larger than a standard car without prior permission from the committee, as neighbouring residents have had issues in the past and to ensure that impact to the unsurfaced section of Corporation Lane is minimised.

Although infrequent, some suspected asbestos fragments (thought to be fragments of asbestos cement corrugated roofing sheets from former site sheds, etc.) have been turning up on site. If found, members are asked to inform the committee so that the fragments can be safely removed f

Members were also reminded that they have responsibility to keep the paths around their plots from getting overgrown, and to keep paths clear for other members. Also, to be wary of ragwort, which was noted around the periphery of the site last summer. **Ragwort should not be cut back.**

Members were reminded to take rubbish home with them, and that when having a fire on their plot, this must be attended at all times. There is a large bonfire area, which larger burnable items can be added to, and which will be set alight by the committee or Fire Warden after consulting the neighbouring residents. **Plot holders are encouraged to compost as much as possible.**

6) Update on allotment projects and forthcoming work days

The committee are planning a further work day at the site in the next month to create one or two more raised beds. These will be used to provide space to grow produce to be donated to local old folks' homes or perhaps Shrewsbury Ark.

There will also be more woodchip delivered soon which can be used to extend the paths around the site. This is donated by a local tree surgeon as and when he has a trailer full.

Claire Kirkby has secured funding for scythes via Transition Towns from Shropshire Council, which can be used to keep weeds to a minimum in an eco-friendly manner. A training day would need to be arranged for anyone who is interested in learning to use them and she proposed that we keep them, blades detached for storage, in the communal shed for anyone to access as required. The blades would be stored in the lockable filing cabinet in the communal shed.

CK has also secured funding via Transition Towns for a composting toilet, as well as bat and owl boxes for the site. A representative from Transition Towns is eager to get involved in the construction of the composting toilet, which will most likely be constructed near to the communal shed. Volunteers will be required to assist with these projects.

Action: CK to organise a sub-committee for these projects, with a deadline to finish them by the end of August 2014.

Other projects around site have included a flower garden, built by Ron Millar, with the intention to donate the flowers grown to be sold at open days to raise funds for the site.

Action: SH will circulate a date and information for the upcoming work day projects to members.

7) Update on finances

Matt Lush circulated copies of the end of year accounts and explained the balance sheet.

One member queried what CCAA stood for. The committee confirmed this is "Coton Community Allotments Association", of which all plot holders are considered members.

8) Social events and fundraising

The committee no longer has a Social Secretary, and nobody has offered to take on this role to date. In the past year, the committee have arranged a fun day, which had to be cancelled due to bad weather, and a bonfire night event (organised by Clare Owen and family).

If any members would like to organise any social events, the committee members would be happy to assist where possible, within reason and in keeping with the rules of the site.

One member suggested a harvest festival and mentioned an upcoming wassailing event organised at the community orchard (26th April), to which she was sure members of CCAA would be welcome to attend.

One member asked if anyone had plans to enter the growing categories of the Shrewsbury Flower Show, with a reminder that all who enter receive free tickets to the show. A booklet is usually available in May.

The committee confirmed that they are happy for members to use the site notice boards to advertise events.

The committee confirmed that they don't have any plans at present to apply for any more funding for the site, as there are still ongoing projects from the last money awarded.

It was suggested that one of the raised beds may be used to plant / donate "extras", i.e. unwanted or excess seedlings and produce, to which other members could help themselves, or which could be donated on. This would need to be signposted and labelled when seeds planted.

9) Any other business

- One member mentioned issues with rodents around the plots. It was suggested that the bat boxes may help with this as they are likely to keep field mice at bay.
- Claire mentioned the Heritage Seed Library as a possible source for seeds.
www.gardenorganic.org.uk/hsl

Meeting closed @ 15.20pm.