

Annual General Meeting  
Sunday 1 March 2015 @ 2pm  
The Quaker Meeting Hall, Corporation Lane

**1) Present:**

Simon Howard	Plot 19
Kay Hawkins	Plots 21 + 22
Charlotte Cluderay	Plot 26
Clare Owen	Plot 4
Dave McGarry	Plot 5
Fred Owen	Plot 12
Fiona Owen	Plot 14
Charles Mansell	Plots 46 + 49
Mike Houghton	Plot 43
John Herbert	Plot 25
Tony Lord	Plots 16 + 17
Anne Timmins	Plots 6+7
Phil + Lib Oliver	Plots 15 + 18
Joy Kinnersley	Plot 33
Susie Roy	Plot 8
Tim + Claire Kirby	Plots 11 + 37

**Apologies:**

None listed. Meeting opened at 2.15pm.

Simon Howard thanked all attendees for coming and welcomes them to the 4<sup>th</sup> AGM of CCAA.

**2) Minutes from last AGM**

Charlotte Cluderay ran through a brief synopsis of the minutes from 2014 AGM and reviewed the actions which had arisen from the meeting. All attendees agreed these were a fair reflection of the meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2014.

**3) Election of officers**

No requests received, so all committee members re-elected unopposed until the next AGM.

There are also some non-committee roles which remain. Phil Oliver as Fire Warden, who is responsible for bonfires at the site.

The committee would be pleased to welcome a Social Secretary role, and asked anyone interested in this to get in contact.

#### 4) Recap of Site Rules

The gate has been left open on occasion, so committee reiterated that if a member goes to leave the site and can see nobody else around, to please close and lock the communal shed and gate. Plotolders were reminded to keep the padlock combination as secure as possible by leaving the padlock on the inside of the main gate post whilst unlocked.

Parking – there have been no real issues since the car park was established, but a reminder to try and avoid driving to the site in muddy weather. The sign at the top of the lane needs to be replaced, and SH reminded plotolders that no allotment traffic should access the top lane.

**Action: SH to replace sign.**

In terms of landscape, the site can get quite rutted so a reminder to plotolders was issued to take care around the edges of the site.

Some suspected asbestos fragments have turned up around the site. If found, and if plotolders are content to deal with the fragments by themselves, these should be dampened and double-bagged using gloves and the bag(s) sealed by ties or tape. The sealed bags can be taken straight to the designated skip at the Battlefield Recycling Centre, but it is best to ring ahead first (01743 452150). Alternatively, contact Simon Howard for assistance. During the site development, a sampling investigation of the site took 45 soil samples, and none of these samples had any asbestos identified in them. A copy of the report is available on request.

Plotolders were reminded to take all non-compostable rubbish home with them, and to keep paths clear of obstructions where possible. The committee continue to try and add to paths around the site.

Plotolders have asked about sheds outside of their plots. These are allowable so long as they are not on communal pathway. Additional rent for off-plot shed is £10/yr and plotolders must ask the committee before placing a shed.

The use of hosepipes is prohibited on site. With the addition of more taps around the site, these should not be necessary anyway.

Fires – There is a communal burning area by the main communal shed. Please leave items to be burnt there, and this will be done by the Fire Warden periodically. Small garden-sized incinerators are allowed on plots so long as all fires are attended at all times.

#### 5) Update on allotment projects and forthcoming work days

The main ongoing project is the composting toilet. This is not far from being complete, with the intention that it be finished and ready to use by growing season 2015.

Over the past year some communal beds have been installed around the site. These are free for people to use, with the intention that people would use them for excess seedlings etc. It's important to label up if anything has been planted in them. Doreen mentioned that the intention had been to

donate excess vegetables to the local homeless shelter, but there weren't enough vegetables grow. If anyone would like to take that project on, please let the committee know.

Bird and bat boxes: Claire Kirby confirmed that an owl box has been ordered with the funding money. There is about £100 remaining in the project budget. The plan is to install the owl boxes around the pear trees at the top of the site.

Work day planned for future to do more work on the paths around plots. This is dependent on bark chips being donated to the site. Other than this, we now have scythes at the site and some people trained to use them. These are stored in the filing cabinets in the communal shed and were used last year with success to keep the weeds at bay. Anyone who has been trained to use them is encouraged to help with this, as and when they may have time.

**Action: SH to arrange work day.**

#### **6) Update on finances**

KH ran through the finances for the past year.

**Action: Place a copy of the insurance certificate on the noticeboard in the communal shed.**

SR queried the amount set aside for water. KH confirmed that this figure was based on meter readings taken from the meter installed at the site. SH reiterated that ploholders are asked to make arrangements to harvest rainwater where possible.

#### **7) Social events and fundraising**

There have not been any social events organised by the committee over the past year. Committee are happy to consider anything which is suggested and to help where available.

In terms of local community links, local guide units have used the site as outdoor campfire space in summer evenings.

Suggestion that boxes along the site perimeter edges may be used for guide groups etc, as required.

Fundraising ideas welcome, but the committee are happy that all outgoings are currently covered by incoming plot fees, so any future fundraising efforts would likely be required only if we had a specific project in mind. Nothing major in planning at present.

#### **8) Any other business**

- One member mentioned it was more pleasant to access the site via the fields and wondered if it would be feasible to install a stile to access the site, perhaps near to the noticeboard. This may depend on livestock. **SH to check with land owner.**
- One ploholder mentioned that they thought there were badgers on site. SH agreed this has been an issue when the site was first turned over. **If evidence seen, committee to contact Shropshire Badger Group for advice.**
- One ploholder asked for any suggestions about humane methods of trapping rats. Some have been seen on the plot and if the problem became really bad, would prefer to use a humane trap. Suggestion that once owl box installed and inhabited, this may help with the



## Coton Community Allotments Association

The funding for the allotment  
project has been provided by



rat numbers. KH: Establish whether this is an ongoing problem. If so, arrange for some information on discouraging rats to be added to the website.

- One plotholder asked the committee whether they would consider ruling to make it a slug-pellet free site. Committee agreed it was not their place to make that ruling, as it's up to plotholders to decide on their best methods, but could encourage alternatives.
- One plotholder suggested setting up a seed swap. It was agreed that this could be kept in the communal shed for people to swap excess seeds and take any they wished to use.
- Also suggested that if people have had good experiences of seeds or seed companies, could share that information on the communal noticeboard in the shed.

SH thanked plotholders for their help at work days over the year, and for attending the AGM.

Meeting closed @ 15.00pm.