

Annual General Meeting  
Sunday 28 February 2016 @ 2pm  
The Quaker Meeting Hall, Corporation Lane

**1) Present:**

Simon Howard	Plot 19
Kay Hawkins	Plots 13, 21 + 22
Charlotte Cluderay	Plot 26
Clare Owen	Plots 4 + 5
Fred and Fiona Owen	Plots 12 + 14
Charles Mansell	Plots 46 + 49
Beverley Fry	Plot 25
Tony + Julia Lord	Plots 16 + 17
Phil + Lib Oliver	Plots 15 + 18
Claire Kirby	Plots 11 + 37
Steve Millar	Plot 3
Ron Millar	Plots 1+2, 23-24

**Apologies:**

Ann and Dave Timmins due to holiday. Ronnie and Dave Marmion due to holiday. Charles Bell, Tim Kirby.

Meeting opened at 2.15pm.

Simon thanked all attendees for coming and welcomes them to the 5<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 that had arisen from the meeting. Libby offered clarification on her suggestion that a gate could be added to the nearby perimeter fence of the adjacent field to the site. **SH agreed to speak with landlord on this issue.** All attendees agreed these were a fair reflection of the meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2015.

**3) Chair's report and recap of site rules**

Simon gave a brief overview of his report of 2015 across the site. The Chair's report is available by email should anyone wish to receive a more detailed copy.

Highlights included two successful work days (in February and September 2015), where the composting toilet was worked on, along with woodchip laid for communal paths and new wildflower patch dug over and planted. Ron Millar mentioned he has a contact for woodchip that could be useful in the future. In July there was an incident with suspected cannabis plants growing. PCSO attending the site confirmed that the plants were not cannabis, and the matter was concluded by digging up and burning the plants as a conservative measure. An updated contact list was produced in July/August and placed inside the communal shed, so that ploholders can contact their neighbours if required. In November, the committee were approached about contributing

financially to the repairs to the Corporation Lane and agreed to do this. Money has been put aside for this. The committee received confirmation from the landlord on a tree suitable for the installation of the owl box, which could be a task for a future work day or for one or two suitably experienced individuals with the right equipment (Tim Kirby and Charlie Bell were suggested by their respective partners).

Claire K asked for confirmation on the rule about dogs at the site. SH reiterated that in accordance with the site rules, dogs may be brought on to the allotments, but must be kept under control at all times. KH added that this means that dogs should be kept on members' own plots and on a lead when on the allotment site.

#### **4) Membership Report**

CC gave a brief update on the membership of the site. No waiting list in place at time of meeting, with two plots vacant at present. It is likely there will be a better idea of any other plot vacancies once the membership fees have been paid. Ideas welcome for where to advertise vacant plots. Other local allotment sites have already been contacted, and are aware we have plots available. SH asked all attendees to ask friends and family if they are interested in a plot, especially if they live in the vicinity of the site.

#### **5) Treasurer's Report**

KH ran through the finances for the past year. As yet, no bill received for the tap replaced in July 2015, although the cost of this is expected to be minimal. There is a contingency fund set aside in case of a water bill in future. There is some money available should we need to pay for a small gate near to the site.

**Action: KH to place a copy of the insurance certificate on the noticeboard in the communal shed.**

#### **6) Election of officers and volunteering for non-committee roles.**

No responses had been received to SH email request for anyone interested in committee roles. Current committee members happy to continue in their roles for another year. Phil Oliver also content to continue with voluntary role as Fire Warden for the site.

#### **7) Proposed task list in lieu of work days**

SH suggested that rather than setting up work days, which can be difficult to find dates which suit a majority, perhaps a list on the noticeboard would be better, which people could attend to if they have any spare time at the site.

DH suggested that it would be best to do both, as some projects are better done with a group of people. The owl box, for example, might be a project that requires a few people so could use a work day.

Work day planned for future to do more work on the paths around plots. LO suggested this would be a good opportunity to combine with a social event, perhaps a BBQ afterwards. Suggestion that

alternative dates could be offered via DoodlePoll. **Action: SH to look into offering date options for work day via DoodlePoll. Decision to commit to one work day and also put up a list.**

### 8) Social events and fundraising

No real requirement for fundraising at the moment, but committee open to considering fundraising events in the future should the need arise for funds to be raised.

KH enjoyed the Bonfire Night event and DH mentioned that she enjoyed the BBQ event which has been held in the past, so it would be good to schedule something after a work day. This would also be an opportunity to meet some of the new ploholders who have joined the site more recently.

### 9) Any other business

- CK suggested a move to a slug-pellet free site, in order that the site could be an organic one and could introduce rescue hedgehogs, which would help with the control of pests. Last year, more environmentally friendly slug pellets were bought using some of the funds secured by Transition Towns and these were available in the communal shed for ploholders to use. Some mentioned they had trialled these pellets with some success. CK asked that people use pellets responsibly and more sparingly rather than scattering, and to try other methods to control slugs and suggested that the committee could buy in bulk and provide more friendly pellets to be used by ploholders. The committee didn't feel that imposing a rule outlawing the use of regular slug pellets would be feasible, but that it would be possible to purchase a large bag of environmentally friendly slug pellets for communal use as a 'first step'. **Action: CK to look into cost of a large bag of environmentally friendly slug pellets.**
- JL raised concerns about the level of thistles in the adjacent field. **Action: SH to contact landowners to ask what the plan is for the field in the coming year. If no livestock planned, could ask whether there would be any objection to cutting back.**
- PO asked about plans for the land above and adjacent to the car park, as surveyors had been noticed there recently. KH has enquired about ownership with Land Registry in the past but no possibility of purchase or use. Some land to the other side of the plot has been offered to the allotments in the past, but it was decided that there would be too much outlay for the lack of demand for plots.
- With regard to fires, SM suggested that the current fire pile can get in the way of those wishing to access the site with vehicles. Also agreed that it's best not to set fire to a heap which has been left for a while, in case of risks to wildlife. It was therefore suggested that perhaps the existing pallet bays by the communal shed could be used for leaving pieces of wood that were to be burnt. These could then be moved over to a fire pile when ready to burn, and agreed by neighbouring houses.
- Query on composting loo, which is now available for use. **Action: SH to produce a sign to attach to the loo to say it is ready for use.**

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

Meeting closed @ 15.30pm.