

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018 @ 2PM FOR 2:15PM

THE QUAKER MEETING HOUSE, CORPORATION LANE, SY1 2NU

1) Present:

Simon Howard (SH)	Plot 15
Kay Hawkins (KH)	Plots 21+ 22
Charlotte Cluderay (CC)	Plot 26
Clare Owen	Plots 4 + 5
Fiona Owen	Plots 12 + 14
Charles + Pat Mansell	Plots 46 + 49
Ben Brown	Plot 40
Beverly Fry	Plot 25
Robert + Karen Copland	Plots 36 + 42
Tony + Julia Lord	Plots 16 + 17
Phil + Lib Oliver	Plot 18
Claire Alleaume	Plot 19

Apologies from Steve Millar, plot 3. SH welcomed the room and thanked them for their attendance. Meeting opened at 14.15pm.

- 2) CC ran through a brief synopsis of the minutes from 2017 AGM. It was agreed that these were a fair representation.
- 3) SH went through his Chair's Report, which covered agreeing plot fees for the coming year with the local council and the landowner, Storm Doris, problems with water supply and a leak, broken barbed wire, repairs to the stile, lots of woodchip and repairs to the access track.

Clare Owen asked whether it would be ok to fill in the pit now that the water leak seemed to be resolved. **Action: fill in pit (completed by Charles Mansell same day).**

SH reminded people to lock the padlock to the main gate before spinning the dials, as it has recently been left unlocked with the combination scrambled. Also, to keep all dogs on leads whilst on site and to keep the footpaths adjacent to their plots cleared and controlled.

SH reiterated that fruit trees on plots must be no more than 1.8m high, so as not to encroach on neighbouring plots, and that agreement must be sought from the committee before planting any trees. KH reminded people that there are many dwarf fruit trees available to purchase.

SH also reminded plotholders about potential for suspected asbestos fragment on their plots and what to do with these (wet, double bag and dispose in asbestos skip at Battlefield Recycling Centre or contact committee if unsure).

Committee had agreed to source an incinerator for getting rid of burnable waste and in order that the fire area could be moved. Robert Copland suggested a cast iron one would be more durable than a cheaper one; may be more cost-effective. Alternatively, a metal basket-like container. **Action: SH to research and source incinerator.**

- 4) CC briefly covered membership over 2017. Some plots have been vacant for a while and there is currently no waiting list. Usually advertised via Facebook or social media, which has proven more successful than print. Once fees have been collected, the committee will have a better idea about which plots are vacant. Tony Lord suggested that the committee should make efforts to keep vacant plots under control, so they don't seem off-putting to prospective plotholders. **Action: SH to prepare a list of vacant plots, in order that they can be cleared and to chase all outstanding plot fees by end of March.**

KH also suggested contacting the local university who are running an environmental course, in case they had students who wished to be involved in a local project or may wish to take on ownership of a plot or a raised bed.

- 5) KH took the room through the summary of accounts which had been prepared.
- 6) Election of officers: CC stepped down as secretary and was replaced by Charles Mansell. SH and KH to continue as chair and treasurer respectively. In terms of non-committee roles, Phil Oliver happy to continue as Fire Warden and it was agreed that a social secretary position would be good, so that social events could be held. No volunteers for this.
- 7) KH prepared a task list including clearing vacant plots and raised beds, as well as keeping paths clear and laying woodchip. Suggestion that flowers or herbs could be planted in the raised beds. **Action: SH to send out Doodlepoll for a work day date to suit a majority.**
- 8) Committee advised that no fundraising was expected to be needed during this year, but it would be good to have a social event. Suggestions welcome.
- 9) AOB: Robert Copland has looked into beekeeping, but after receiving advice from local experts, there could be too much risk involved.

Questions asked about the lease and whether it will be extended. SH explained that the current lease runs until May 2019 and the committee hope to set up a limited company to take on any future leases, with directors being the committee members, rather than individual trustees. The committee are hopeful that the landowners will be amenable to an extension on the lease. It is unlikely that the landowners would be interested in selling the land. **Action: KH to confirm obligations and costs of limited company. SH to contact landlord re: lease.**

Meeting closed at 15:30