



## High Wych Allotment Association Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020 - 7.00pm (Zoom On-Line Meeting)**

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Sue & Steve Hall, Barrie Richardson, Linda & Gareth Emanuel, David Smith, Val Foster, Bob Collie, Alan Felstead

**Apologies for absence:** Martin Greenaway, Mike Blight, Mark Sears, Phil Attelsey, Janet Staunton, Alison Hollis

### **Approval/Matters Arising from AGM Minutes – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

There were no matters arising from the last year's AGM minutes and they were approved by Steve Hall and seconded by Barrie Richardson.

### **Chairman's Report:** (Sue Hall)

What a year it has been!

In 'allotment terms' it started for me with Barrie asking me to help out the Association and take on the post of Chairman for the year. After some 'arm twisting' from my husband I agreed.

We have welcomed some lovely newcomers this year and I am grateful to them for coming along and saying hello. It seems strange not having the usual banter with Ron and I am sorry to see those that have left this year. Thank you all for making our site one of the best kept allotments in the area.

We undertook some hedge cutting on the boundary at the end of the site (plots 1 and 31) and I just wanted to thank all those plot holders that came along to support our group. We had a good turn out on both days in some glorious January weather.

We also had a few of plot holders help us clear the Association plot which made it much easier to access the storage shed. Your community spirit is welcome.

There have been a number of 'challenges' with regards to water pressure this year and I am pleased to hear that things have now settled down and that David Smith is investigating some options to help us all. If you have any suggestions, then please let me know so that we can communicate to all the plot holders.

I also think it appropriate to thank Barrie for his tireless work and keeping things ticking over on a day to day basis. If there is a problem, Barrie usually has the solution.

2020 is going to be a year that will stay long in the memory. No one can foresee what 2021 will hold for us all. Let us hope that we can get back to some normality.

Zoom calls may be here to stay for a while. Please join us for the AGM this year. Your opinion matters.

I would like to welcome all newcomers that have joined the Allotment's in 2020 and I hope you enjoy your time here. Sorry to see those that have left this year.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Barrie Richardson)

Please find the accounts as an attachment to the minutes.

Barrie talked through the accounts and although the plant sale had to be done differently this year due to Covid we did manage to raise £191.40 for association funds thanks to an honesty box. Thanks to everyone who contributed plants or bought them! Also due to lockdown seed orders doubled this year. Barrie needs to check our liability insurance and whether this now comes as part of our membership with NSALG. We finish this year with a funds of £801.01.

**Plant Sale is scheduled for the morning of Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (10-12).**

**Secretary's Report** (Linda Emanuel)

Covid-19 has dominated 2020 and as a result meetings and social gatherings have not taken place this year. This includes our Plant Sale and the High Wych Festival. In this situation as Secretary my role has been simply to correspond with plot holders via email with news and information. The HWAA website has also been kept up to date.

It has been a difficult year for everyone but at least we have been able to carry on with working on our plots and seeing each other (socially distanced of course!)

I did state at the last AGM I would be resigning November 2020 and therefore will not be standing for re-election.

I hope 2021 is a better year for everyone.

**High Wych Parish Council Report:** (Dave Smith) 2019-2020 has been another successful year for the High Wych Allotments.

As usual, the plots are fully let and we continue to have new applicants. Happy to report that the site has received praise from

external sources stating how well maintained it is for which the Council is grateful to the HWAA.

As usual, there have been changes to tenants with some of the long-term holders giving up their plots to be replaced with others keen to become involved.

Owing to the increase in water charges, it has been necessary to increase the annual rent from £25 per standard plot to £30. As a result of this increase, it has not been necessary to levy a supplementary charge for water this year and hopefully this will also be true for the new season. Interesting to note that even with the increase we continue to offer one of the best rates in the area.

On the subject of water, there continues to be an issue during long periods of drought. The Council recognises that this is a problem and will take action to address it going forward. However, recent proposals have been rejected by the Council as too expensive and by plot holders as not being practicable. Could I ask that the HWAA come up with some ideas of how to address the problem and I will then take them forward.

The issue of parking seems to have gone away for the time being but will no doubt come back if the Tenants do not respect the request not to park on the grass in wet weather. I will however continue to stress that this is not an Allotments issue as it involves the whole community.

In summary, it has been another successful year and I look forward to the new season with the hope that things will remain this way.

Happy Gardening.

### **Election of Officers:**

The following officers were unanimously re-elected unopposed:-

Chairman – **Sue Hall**

Treasurer – **Barrie Richardson**

Secretary – **Vacany** (*Linda Emanuel did not stand for re-election*)

Committee Member – **Mike Blight**

Committee Member – **Alison Hollis**

### **Any Other Business**

***Due to the fact the AGM was an on-line Zoom meeting with limited time most of the items listed under AOB will have to be***

***discussed at committee level and minutes then emailed to plot holders.***

NSALG – Site Facilities and Health & Safety (raised by Dave Smith – HWPC).

Bank Mandate – review of signatories.

Association Plot – Greenhouse – still needs to be erected.

HWAA Secretary – vacancy – how role can be shared within committee. Handover to be arranged. (Due to Association rules Linda will be listed in name-only until a new secretary is appointed). Website will show Dave Smith as the contact for allotment enquiries.

Rubbish Clearance – from site and association plot.

Fencing – there was a long discussion as since the hedge was cut back along the bridleway large holes have been spotted and this is allowing pests (eg: rabbits) to get on our allotments and also adds to the lack of security on site. Sue to send out an email to all our plot holders to address this urgent issue. Responsibility for hedge cutting also needs to be clearly defined. Sue also wanted to say thank you to those who helped recently in further hedge cutting (Rob, Barrie, Steve H and Steve B).

Thefts – these have been reported again this year, but nothing picked up on our cameras.

Watering – following on from Dave Smith's report there was some discussion with the issues of demand in dry weather. Showing courtesy and consideration to others. On the practical side looking at possibility of an additional tank and introducing ball valves. Also encourage as many plot holders as possible to have water butts on their plots and to water using cans.

Dave also mentioned he had £250 in the budget next year which could be made available for any improvements to the site.

Allotment Gate – problems with the lock this year. Also review keys/locks or PIN entry. (This is also linked to discussions re theft).

New Plot Holders – issuing a welcome pack and possibly introducing a ‘buddy’ system to help people settle in and get to know the site and offer help and practical advice.

The AGM finished at 7.45 pm.

**Date of next AGM – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – 7.00pm**