



Minutes of Unity Allotment AGM 10 November 2016

28 members present

Apologies:- Val and Steve Blackburn, Malcolm Jones, Lois Wulff, Ann Smith

Minutes of 2015 AGM:- Agreed by all present. Proposed by David Smith, Seconded by John McLeod.

Chairman's Report:-

After the drainage works, it appears that the site water problems have improved. The site has improved and was awarded Silver from Harrogate in Bloom, having been awarded Bronze in 2015. Although a little disappointed with lack of help maintaining the site, we have kept on top of things, but there is room for improvement in 2017. If we don't get help and volunteers for Committee posts, and maintenance, the site may be taken back by the Council, and then will not be self-administered. Bonfire days went off well with no complaints, however a few bonfires were left smouldering without ploholders being in attendance - please note that this is in breach of Tenancy Agreements. There was no BBQ this year, but hopefully next year we can organise a social event.

Secretary's Report:-

The Secretary reported that the Annual Show raised over £900 and £900 will go to Harrogate Easier Living Project - our designated charity this year. She thanked all who contributed and those who manned the stall. Also a reminder for all ploholders to keep her updated with any change in address, telephone number, email address, in order to keep our records up to date.

Treasurer's Report:-

The Treasurer presented the Accounts and Balance sheet. We have a healthy balance. Rents are to increase due to Harrogate Borough Council increasing



their rent for the site. The shop sales are doing well and we need to use this facility or lose it.

Plot Manager's Report:-

The site inspection went well, apart from a few untidy plots. People who put their names on the waiting list need to be aware that there is a lot of work involved in getting a new plot up and running. There are 6 names currently on the waiting list. The Plot Manager is giving up at the end of November, and thanks everyone for their help and support in his term of office.

Rents for 2017:-

Rents for 2017 will be an increase of £3 for all half plots, and an increase of £5 for all full plots. A vote was taken of those present, and it was agreed unanimously. Rents will be collected in February 2017 - dates will be agreed and plotheholders will be informed.

National Allotment Association membership:-

We pay approx £300 per year for this membership. The Chairman looked into what we received for this, and it appears that any legal advice we need we will still have to pay for. The matter was discussed and a vote taken - it was decided to terminate this membership. It was also decided that the Chairman and Secretary would apply to be individual members at a lower fee in order that the site still had cover if needed.

Unity Cup for Best New Plotholder:-

This cup was presented to Ben Grant, plot 33b.

Election of Officers:-



All officers on the Committee volunteered to stand again. As the Plot Manager, Malcolm Jones, is giving up, this post was open. Mr Nicholas Milner volunteered to stand. This was put to a vote, and agreed.

AOCB:-

The site water will be turned off on Sunday 13 November 2016 until Spring 2017.

Car owners are requested to stay off the side tracks in wet weather due to causing ruts, which will need to be filled in again next year.

An incentive scheme was discussed to involve individual ploholders to help out with site maintenance. This will be further discussed at the next Committee Meeting.

Frank Newburn has set up our new website - unitygroveallotments.co.uk. All our policies, rules, etc will be available on the website.

Seeds for next year can be ordered through Terry Crossland in the shop.

Trees on the site was discussed. It was agreed that too many trees were being felled without consultation, possibly to the detriment of the site. It was agreed that permission to fell trees would be put to the Committee first, and this was agreed by a vote of all present.

The bees, which are a good thing for the site, are doing well this year, and hopefully will be as productive next year.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm