

Levenshulme & District Allotment Holders Society

Annual General Meeting

Minutes

19th February 2017

L. Perry Chair	H Harrigan Treasurer	K. Jukes
E. Hudson	E. Edmondson	V. Kavanagh
H. Shaw	C. Kirby	A. Kays
O. Judge	B. Moser	L. Moulding
M. Billinge	J. Bratley	P. Bond
J. Carter	P. Cawley	L. Palko
W. Powers	M. Clark	F. Clements
D. Fanchette	K. Graham	J. Quinn
W. Roper-Browning	A. Hunt	P. Thomas
C. James	W. Hunt	M. Smith
B. Travis	L. Walker	

Apologies

M. Hendry, J. Crilley, A. Sidwell, Pete Schenk, C. Barlow, D. Bond.

Minutes of last meeting

Apologies were made for there being no minutes from last year's AGM – the agenda was offered as a discussion point for what had been talked about. There had been no proposals.

Chairs Opening

Lesley Perry Welcomed everyone and opened the meeting passing the first item to the treasurer for his report

Financial Report

Harry opened his report with the accounts for LADAS. He explained the Balance sheet on the back and the Liability to the council for outstanding rents. He also explained the difference in accounts for 2016 as money had been claimed back from the council for overpayment. He also explained the reduction in rental income. He also pointed out that there would probably be a big expenditure on the hut project this coming year.

Question was asked re the setting of membership fees at £5.00 covering insurance and membership of the National Association. HH pointed out that the current cost for these two items is £6.92 per member the deficit was currently being covered by society funds. It was also explained that the membership fee was always decided at and AGM by the members who turned up to the meeting.

Allotments at Levenshulme. This account is also in profit. The accounts didn't show the amount of money raised from the proceeds of the show. MC asked that they be itemised separately in the next years accounting in order that those who have worked hard on the show can see how well it's done and where the moneys were spent. HH said that as usual the cups/trophies were a large part of the expense.

Proposed as correct W. Powers Seconded H. Shaw

Carried Unanimously

Chairs Report

Lesley reported that the renaming of lanes was completed and the numbering of plots was 3/4 completed and once it was done a new site map would be produced. She pointed out that with a committee of 5 everything took a lot longer than it would if there were more committee members.

Membership cards have been issued this year to members.

The Greenhouse has been a brilliant success managing to pay for itself and make a profit. Big thanks were given to Bob and his team for building it and to Mary, Phil and the team for getting it up and running and looking after the plants and the sales over the summer.

The community payback team have been involved on site initially cutting back hedges but also helping to clear some un-let plots in order to make them more desirable for new plot holders. The team will be on site again this year before April to cut hedges before the birds start nesting. After this plot holders who do not maintain their hedges will be charged for having them cut.

Some plots have been let and we have a number of younger people on site who need to be encouraged to get involved. We currently have approx. 25 empty plots and 6 or 7 people on the waiting list.

We have resumed contact with the Council and, after a period of constantly changing staff responsible for allotments, are hopeful that they are on-board. Our current priorities are the repair or replacement of the perimeter fencing along the Cricket club boundary, the installation of the Broom Lane fencing (we have the some fencing) and a temporary fix on the road at the main entrance. (It was suggested that Sustrans and Friends of Highfield are also contacted as the road is shared access. The Cricket Club has been taken back by the Council and the Site will be cleared. The Council are also investigating the water problem which they now think may be something to do with the cricket club – we await their investigations.

A plot holder is looking to develop a community plot for the use of the elderly, disabled and schools. The plot is on Barlow Road.

The next major project will be making the hut fit for purpose. Currently meetings and events are difficult to run when it is cold as the hut doesn't have adequate heating or insulation.

LP then pointed out some of the problems on site. Mainly that the number of people on the committee meant that some jobs weren't being done ie. there isn't anyone to apply for grants. There is no secretary so that job is shared amongst a number of people. The number of people on the committee is not representative of the sites diversity – also leads to limited ideas. There are a lot of people on site who do a lot of things in the background and the current committee have been really grateful for their help. Thank you very much.

Vandalism has been a problem and although this problem will probably never go away once the council sort the boundary fencing out it should help. PCSO's and Parks response team have been doing patrols around various part of the site but they work limited hours. We have organised patrols when there has been a major problem. Please don't leave anything valuable on site.

The Certificates awarded from the Council Competition last summer will be presented in March. It is hoped to have a social event in the hut to present the certificates.

LP commented that someone had complained about children being in the hut. She pointed out that the site was inclusive and that the younger generation were to be encouraged. Children were welcome in the hut HH said that if anyone didn't like it then they didn't have to come in.

LP then thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and their involvement over the year.

She gave a special vote of thanks to Wayne Roper-Browning for his work as a Committee member up until September. Jackie Roper-Browning for her role in the Café. Ken Jukes, who was standing down this year, for his work as plot letting officer, and to Eileen Edmondson for standing in from September.

Secretaries Report Lesley Perry apologised for the lack of a secretaries report as we don't have a secretary. Volunteers welcome.

Communications report

EH spoke about the moves forward in the area of on-site communication. There are 4 basic ways in which information is passed on to plot holders.

These are via :

1 the website which has all the events and news updated regularly.

2 emails to everyone who has submitted an email address

3 text message (anyone not receiving either text or email messages should speak directly to Eric to check he has the correct details.)

4 noticeboards around the site.

Please keep your details up to date in order to ensure you are getting all the information available to you.

Proposals

1 Committee members should be voted in by a secret ballot.

Proposed Mary Clark **Seconded** Phil Thomas

Discussion made it clear that this would be from next years AGM

Carried Votes For 15 Votes Against 9 Abstentions 8

2 Current constitution be adhered to Re Honorariums and Life Membership

‘The Committee shall have the power to recommend life membership for services to the society and Honorariums for services of the Committee members. These will be awarded at the AGM at the discretion of the membership’ At the moment honorariums are given to the Committee without a Society Vote Proposed amendment to the constitution:

Honorariums to be voted for at the AGM by secret Ballot.

Proposed Mary Clark **Seconded** Phil Thomas

Discussion about updates to constitution. Other people are also awarded honoraria ie. the auditor, culminated in agreeing that amendment be made to wording ie. ‘**ALL** honoraria to be voted for at the AGM by secret ballot.

Carried Votes For 15 Votes Against 0 Abstentions 5

3 The date of the next AGM be set at the current AGM

Proposed Mary Clark **Seconded** Phil Thomas

It was suggested that the AGM be on the **3rd Sunday in February each year**. The proposal went straight to vote.

Carried Votes For 25 Votes Against 0 Abstentions 7

4 Propose a vote of thanks for Ken Jukes and Eileen Edmondson

This had been addressed in the Chairs speech so wasn’t put to the vote

Nominations

Nominated

Lesley Perry

Eric Hudson

Votes For 31

Votes Against 0

Harry Harrington

Lesley Perry

Votes For 31

Votes Against 0

Eric Hudson

Lesley Perry

Votes For 28

Votes Against 0

Didier Fanchette

Eric Hudson

Votes For 29

Votes Against 0

Non-Voting Members (Not members for 12 months)

Chelsea Barlow

Lesley Perry

Withdrawn

Melanie Smith

Eileen Edmondson

Votes For 27

Votes Against 1

Seconded

Eileen Edmondson

Abstentions 0

Eric Hudson

Abstentions 0

Eileen Edmondson

Abstentions 3

Lesley Perry

Abstentions 2

Eric Hudson

Eric Hudson

Abstentions 3

Meeting closed at 1.30