

Boundary Allotment Association

Annual General Meeting

11am 30th March 2025

Held in the Polytunnel Boundary Way Allotments

Attendees:

Howard Berry 66F, Alma Kimber 9f, Tom Jones 70b, Adrian Wise 56F & 57B, Stephen Rhodes 69F, Kerry Hughes 18b, Helen Stallard Wolves Play Cafe, Hugh Hughes 51a, Mandy Lane 16B, Dave Brown 4R, Simon Meredith 62A, Sally Hilton 20F, James Hewitt 15A, Rita Roberts 6R, Derek Thom 67F, Dennis Short 58A, Bimla Devi 30A, Alice Lane 5R, Dave Schofield 27F.

1. Apologies:

Matt Parkes 21f, Yvonne Hinds 40F, Mike Phillips 53F, Glynne Taft, Gail Megal, Steve Cooper 27F,

2. Welcome

As we are without a Chairman, HB Secretary thanked the attendees for coming.

3. Minutes of the last AGM

Minutes for the previous meetings and the current financial statement are available on the website.

4. Treasurer's report.

Tom Jones presented the accounts for the period ending 1st April 2025 Copies were made available to all those present, and they can be viewed and downloaded from our website.

Overview of accounts was discussed as found accounts provided for download, David Brown checked and counter signed accounts.

He was pleased to report the help that we have received from users of the community garden, particularly Wolves Play Café £227. Despite the poor weather conditions which affected the number of orders, the Kings Seeds Scheme continued to profitable £150.06.

Income main points:

- We have a increase in plot holders so our income is slightly higher that last year.
- We are now requiring new tenants to pay deposit of £50 when they take on a plot. This is refundable if at the end of their tenancy the plot is passed on in a satisfactory condition. Deposits in 2024- 5 amounted to £1,010.
- Rents for 2025- 6 Will be raised by £5.

Full Plots	£50 (over 80's £45)
Three quarter plots	£45 (eg. plot 61)
Half Plots	£40
Shortened Plots 30A, 30B & 50B	£30
Starter Plots (e.g. Plot 49 quartered)	£25
Raised Beds	£30
Poly Tunnel Tables	£10
Polytunnel Raised Beds	£25

Good House Keeping deposits

New tenants will require to pay a deposit of £50. If the tenant leaves the plot in good order at the end of their tenure, this will be refunded.

As a concession for current plot holders over the age of 80 there will be a discount of £5 for each plot size except for the Polytunnel raised beds and tables.

Expenditure:

- Skip hire is an unnecessary burden As will be seen from the expenditure, we are absorbing the high costs of clearing up overgrown plots. £230 (and more to come in 2025). This is a significant factor in the rent increases- hence the deposit system.
- WaterPlus, There was a significant reduction in expenditure int 2024 almost fifty percent. This may have been due to the wet weather and the repair of a leaking pipe near plot 5 which we repaired.
- Membership of the National Society of Allotments & Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) and the site insurance have increased.
- With a great seal of help from the Crafty Gardener team lead by Matt Parkes and the hard ground work of our own volunteers, (Tom Jones, Steve Rhodes, Adrian Wise and Dave Brown) we have constructed two new raised beds near the entrance gates. Cost £697. These are now ready for use.

AK expressed how grateful she was for all the hard work undertaken by Tom's Team. There was general agreement to this.

A question was asked about seeking funding from the National Lottery etc. HB said he would look into this.

5. Secretary's Report.

Howard Berry highlighted the following aspects of 2024.

he poor weather in Spring and early Summer 2024 made growing conditions difficult and increased slug activity, which hindered new ploholders. The £50 housekeeping deposit did not deter the revolving door of new tenants, but it provided extra resources to address plot neglect.

On a positive note, the Crafty Gardener CIC and The Wolves Play Café CIC greatly supported Boundary Way Allotments. WPC's donations and volunteer efforts from Charter Bank helped maintain the Community Garden. The Crafties, with their clients, assisted Tom's team in constructing two new raised beds near the entrance, saving us thousands of pounds.

The Penn & District Gardening Society Trading Hut remains a valued community member, with Debbie Mills on our management team.

Looking ahead, BWAA, WPC, and the Crafty Gardener have collaborated with Wolverhampton University, projecting our hopes for the next five years.

In 2030 all of the plots are fully utilised and a healthy waiting list is in place.

The site is a vibrant example of a City allotment site, plot holders support each other and share skills and horticultural expertise.

The site continues to provide a safe and meaningful resource for plot holders, particularly plot holders for whom 'allotmenting' is their reason for being. We all recognise that no other facility provides this resource, and that many of this 'old guard' would simply not find an alternative. Everyone understands that preserving and nurturing a backbone of plot holders is an important and valuable aspect of the site and its longevity.

There are regular social events for plot holders to meet and celebrate throughout the year, BBQ's, talks, Christmas lunch and more. Improved communication between Penn & District and the wider allotments means more people regularly get to access regular subsidised trips out and talks.

Plot holders have access to a range of resources which are upcycled for use on site through our relations with the University and organisations such as the Reuse Hubs.

The community groups on site are an integral aspect of the allotments, communication is improved with more understanding of what we all wish to achieve and how this fits into the day to day at Boundary Way. Plot holders, community group members and their participants' have good relationships and support each other., community group members and their participants' have good relationships and support each other.

HB finished by listing his priorities:

- We need to enhance community socialisation through more events and gatherings, sharing skills and ideas, and improving the appearance of the area.
- We should better utilise Farmer Jordan's manure, and properly store Rupert Doley's chippings.
- Enhancing storage in the concrete shed and metal containers is necessary.
- Collaborating with P&DGS to improve the shop and its usage is crucial.
- We must also boost our website and social media presence.
- Importantly, we should encourage active participation from younger members, as our treasurer and secretary are nearing their eightieth years.

He thanked Tom Jones, Adrian Wise, Michael Phillips, Steve Rhodes particularly for their regular maintenance work. Also Yvonne and David Hines with the help of Alice Lane for organising a Christmas meal at the Westacres.

6.Election of committee officers.

The following were re-elected without calling for a vote:

Chairman Vacant

Tom Jones (70B)Treasurer

Howard Berry (66F)Secretary

Committee

Adrian Wise (56F & 57A)

Mike Phillips (53F)

Sally Hilton (20F)

Glynne Taft (48A)

Matt Parkes (22F)

Alma Kimber (9F)

Helen Stallard Community Garden Manager Wolves Play Cafe

Kerry Hughes (18B) Social Media Communications

Lisa Stallard Community Garden Wolves Play Cafe Manager

Rob Shinfield (33F) Communications, Inspections

Steve Rhodes (69F)

Yvonne Hindes (40F)

Alice Lane (R5)

Debbie Mills (R1) PGS Representative

7. A.O.B

- Sally Hilton said that the work done with the University would be showcased with a shared event between the Crafty Gardener and Wolves Play Café on dates to be arranged.
- Kerry Hughes and HB will work together in improving communications.
- Bimla Devi put herself forward to assist the committee.
- Many attendees expressed their wish for more social activities such as regular barbeques.

There being no further matters, Howard Berry thanked all those who had taken time to attend and closed the meeting.

Close of Meeting 11:45 am