

Boundary Allotment Association

Annual General Meeting

11.00am 24th March 2019

Held in the Polytunnel Boundary Way Allotments

1. Attendees:

Mary Wetton 5R, Dennis Short 58F, John Ault 59B, Phil Coggin 11F & 69F, Jess Bains 10F, 31b/32b, Adrian Wise 56F & 57B, David Brown 66F, Alma Kimber 16A, , Alan Kimber 9F, Howard Berry 51A, David Hindes 54F, Yvonne Hindes 40F, Tom Jones 13F, Sally Hilton 20F, Steve Beckett 35F, Tilly McDermott 22F, Mike Phillips 53F.

2. Apologies:

Moya Lloyd 63B, Steve Callow 13F, Matt Parkes 21F, Mark Taylor 75F

3. Welcome

4. Minutes of the last AGM

Copies of the minutes for the 2018 AGM were available to the attendees and were posted on the Boundary Way website.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Chairman's Report

David Brown said that we have had our share of problems over the year: break-in's and vandalism; drought and consequently high mains water usage; fires and dumping. We have also lost Edmund Conway.

There have been high points with successful open days and the continuing involvement of the Crafty Gardeners and the Boundary Way Project. Thanks to all those who have made these events possible.

Thanks also to Alma and Allan Kimber for doing so much to involve Waitrose and their donation scheme which raised £275.

Vandalism and break-ins. It is important not to leave any valuable tools etc. in the sheds even if they are locked. The safest policy would be to store your tools at home and bring only what you need for the day.

The perimeter fence is getting old and there are several places where intruders can get in. We can not make the site completely secure. Damage has been caused to several sheds and the polytunnel has been slashed. Mark Taylor and DB have used repair kits to do a temporary fix, but the cover really needs replacing at some time.

We have a good committee now, but we need more support from ploholders by doing all they can to keep their plots tidy, using water carefully and bringing only essential items onto the site.

Fires

After complaints from the Council and Environmental Health Department, the Committee had decided that it was no longer possible for individual plot holders to have fires on their plots. Thanks go to Tom Jones, Mark Taylor and Phil Coggin for their efforts in maintaining the burning area.

Dumping

It is clear that some people are using the burning area as a dumping ground and leaving items that have no business to be on site in the first place. We will remove fly-tippers from the site.

Polytunnel usage

Much work has been done to improve the interior of the polytunnel. We want to see the standard of tidiness maintained. This facility was intended mainly as an outdoor classroom for groups visiting the Community Garden to use in bad weather. We are now asking ploholders who want to use it for growing to pay a supplementary fee for the season £5 for a bay and £10 for a raised bed. The fee is to contribute to the extra mains water required.

(Attendees were asked if they would be interested in taking on a space on the above terms. Alma asked DB if the Beacon Centre would be asked to pay and he said that they would.)

Increase in rents

Because of the higher usage of water and the need to undertake essential repairs, the committee has decided that the fees will need to be raised.

Full plot £35

Half plot £25

Raised bed £15

DB ended by emphasising the positive contributions made by the Boundary Way Project groups, Pennfields School, the Youth Offenders Team and the Crafty Gardens. Without these groups the allotments would a less enjoyable and lively place. He particularly asked for the support of the ploholders and friends and family in the Peoples' Choice bid made by the Crafty Gardeners.

(Sally Hilton thanked all those for the support they received when ITV filmed the appeal.

7. Secretary's Report

Howard Berry said that all he wanted to add to DB's points was the following:

As Moya Lloyd was unable to attend, he wanted to encourage plot holders to take part in the activities provided by the Boundary Way Project. He particularly wanted to avoid the possibility of an "us and them" split.

As regards water usage, he would like to see every possible means taken to capture water on individual plots and communal structures including the polytunnel.

8. Treasurer's Report

Tom Jones presented the accounts for the period ending 1st April 2019.

The Association donated £50 to Compton Care for their work in caring for Edmund Conway and his wife.

£170 has been spent on Community Garden repairs.

Tom Jones has spent a great deal of time trying to sort out the water bills between Severn Trent and Water Plus. Photographs of the meter readings have been sent off but the final bill has yet to

arrive. The readings show that during the past six months we have used 730cubic metres of water at a unit cost of £1.53 (£1,132.2). This is our calculation.

Tilly McDermott asked that the fact that we will now receive two lots of annual water bills will be minuted.

Tom Jones went on to say that at times of drought, we may need to turn off the water supply.

David Hinds pointed out that the figures on the accounts sheet did not balance. TJ said that this was because some small items of expenditure had been left off. DH said that these should be placed into a category such as miscellaneous or sundries. TJ said that all the detailed items were in the full accounts book and that the printed accounts had been simplified.

Election of committee members.

The election took place of officers and committee. David Brown said there had been no new nominations for the officers or committee members. He asked the meeting if everyone was happy to continue with the same committee. Those present indicated that they were. The following officers were re-elected:

Chairman	David Brown
Vice Chair	Louise Morgan
Treasurer	Tom Jones
Secretary	Howard Berry

The following were elected unopposed as committee members:

Alma Kimber 16A, Yvonne Hinds (40F), Mike Phillips (53F), Sally Hilton (20F), Tilly McDermott (22F), Matt Parkes (21F), Phil Coggin (11F & 69F), Moya Lloyd (63B & Boundary Way Project Leader), Mark Taylor.

9. The Meeting continued with the re-elected Chairman David Brown.

10. A.O.B

Alma Kimber wished to thank David Brown, Tom Jones, Mark Taylor and Steve Beckett for the work they had done in the Community Garden

Close of Meeting

Mr Brown Thanked all those who had taken time to attend and closed the meeting at 12.00