

**Alton Allotment Association Minutes  
21st Annual General Meeting  
Venue The Fynamore Pavilion Anstey Park  
8th April 2015**



20 members of the Association attended the meeting

**Apologies**

Apologies had been received from:

Ian Fleming; Geoff Hawkins; Jane Hurst; Nancy Clarke; Marion Morgans; Liz Griffiths  
Trev Irwin; Sara Thomson & Julia Fleming.

**Welcome from the Chair**

Jane welcomed the members and thanked them for making the effort to attend. Jane touched on the subject that we didn't have a replacement for the Chair and Secretary and a discussion followed.

Members wanted the Association to carry on, Peter Bell said without an Association there could be a danger of losing plots we must keep members. Ann Foulkes suggested maybe there could be a different way of working. We then decided to work through the Agenda.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the last AGM on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

**Chair Report**

The main subject of the discussion was that of the Alton Allotment Association going forward. This was outlined and agreed to be discussed after the election of site reps later in the meeting.

Jane highlighted that the Association's current position had impacted on some of the decisions that would have been made by this time of year, namely event dates, and benefits such as seed schemes etc.

Jane noted that there had been a significant improvement of the allotments and that a great deal of work had gone into getting them in a more presentable state to be handed over as the council had rotovated many of the empty plots.

The current waiting list was down to 35, which was thought as a good result, however Bobby Armstrong also noted that this could have a negative impact. It was noted that we could look at doing a good news story in the local press if needed at a later date.

Jane also outlined the waiting times for the plots and this year 223 continued with their allotments and 33 relinquished.

Borovere 5 months; Hawthorns 6 months; Spitalfields 3 months  
Whitedown 7 months; & Wooteys 3 months

## **Secretary Report**

### **The Town Council**

We had one working party meeting last March with the council, the ongoing issues of Hawthorns Car Park and Taps at Wooteys was once again discussed. Two quotes had been received for the car park and Samantha was asked to approach the contractor with the lowest quote to get more detailed figures. We have not yet had any more information.

Ty Smith was asked to apply for another quote for the tap at Wooteys.

Also they informed us that the Working Party would no longer exist and it would be incorporated into the Open Space Meetings.

Ty Smith confirmed that the Town Council grounds team will undertake the maintenance of the allotment sites for the year.

The Town Clerk was going to organise a meeting at the Assembly Rooms in November he was going to invite all plot holders to come along and have their say. We had a meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Dates in the Year**

### **Open Day**

We had our annual Open Day on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July which I missed because I was on holiday but I think the weather was good.

### **Summer Show**

We had a new venue for the Summer Show which we held on the 30<sup>th</sup> August at the Maltings. Plenty of parking and we had the use of the courtyard which was a bonus.

### **Seed Scheme**

The Seed Scheme was once more a success this year after a slight blip at the beginning. Pat Harding asked how many seed orders had we had. It was 47.

### **Site Checks**

I did most of the monthly site plot checks with Steve Parkinson and the site reps and he has made a difference this year as Jane has already commented on.

## **Treasurer Report**

The current balance stands at £3885.29 consists of:-

£3838.17 in the Building Society.

£47.12 cash in hand.

Since the council have taken back the maintenance we now only have the one General Account.

The main income from subs and the seed scheme.

Main expenditure from NSALG, printing and catering.

If the Association folds we will have to decide how to spend any remaining funds.

## Election of Officers and Committee Members

Nancy Clarke was nominated by Jenny Newman and seconded by Ann Foulkes for the job of Treasurer.

Phil Small was nominated by Wilf Poore and seconded by Jane Cain for the site rep job at Spitalfields.

Nancy Clarke was nominated by Jane Cain and seconded by Alan Newman for the job of site rep at Whitedown.

Pat Harding was nominated by Mike Penn and seconded by Patricia Barnes for the job as site rep for Borovere.

Yvonne Thorne (Wooteys) Mike Penn( Borovere) Marion Morgans (Hawthorns) were asked by Jane if they would carry on as site reps and the motion was seconded by Bob Armstrong.

As the Association did not have a member for the position of Chair and Secretary we started to discuss the way forward.

There was enough interest to form a Caretaker Working Party which would include the following:

Jane Cain  
Ann Foulkes  
John Muir  
Peter Bell  
Beccy Weaver  
Pat Harding      site rep  
Mike Penn        site rep  
Phil Small        site rep  
Yvonne Thorne   site rep  
Marion Morgans site rep  
Nancy Clarke    Treasurer and site rep

and for the next three months they would try to encourage people to engage in taking the Association forward.

Bob Armstrong thought we could write a piece for the Herald to help bring the Associations profile up.

Ann thought a questionnaire to members asking what they expect from the Association would be a good idea.

Frank Richards had an idea that each site should maybe have a working group.

A proposal to extend a free membership to the end of the year was unanimous.

Bob Armstrong asked the members to thank the executive for all the hard work they have put in over the last three years.

## **AOB**

John Muir asked about insurance and Ann said that at the moment it had lapsed there was no point having insurance at the moment as the equipment we own is stored safely and insured and as we have no events planned we don't need public liability.