

Minutes of the LRRHAA AGM held on 4 November 2013

Present: I.Matten (President), C Sharp (Chair), A Harpin (Treasurer), A Scriven (Field Secretary), D Penwarden (Trustee), A Benfield (Trustee) P Hart, N van Haer), C Grimley Evans, J Grimley Evans, T Kirkby, C Cavey, M Brooks, N Brooks, R Adams, P Bevan, C Gibbs

1. **Apologies:** B Whaley, R Russell, M Fernandes, L Laubeova

2. **Minutes of 2012:** approved

3 **Matters arising:** none

4. **Chair's Report:**

- wildlife area: fence still needed - **A Benfield to provide** pergola erected by Brookes students as part of their architectural course.
- **work party 3 Nov, Poor turnout** – More members are required to assist with working parties. **Next one: 17 Nov to move stones to new car park, creosote pergola and trim hedge.**
- regeneration grant £70 spent on marquee. Remaining £680 to be spent on car park but stones still required from plots.
- rubbish should be taken away unless burnable
- shop break-in: thanks to Terry, Adrian, Phil for restorative work. Loo door to be re-fitted by **Adrian and others**. Insurance not practical (cost £400). **Arnold** to investigate alarm system.
- Glebe boundary sycamores to be addressed City. Grant application with City for replacement native hedging.
- notice board: perspex to be replaced early 2014 if successful grant application made to Co-Op.
- website: new webmaster to take over when "codes" retrieved

5. **Treasurer's Report:** accounts circulated and explained by AH. These figures do not include the Shop account (see below). Running expenses are barely met by income. 2013 budget predicts a small loss, but is not offset by any receipts. The Association "value" is £5135.45 of which £1219.86 is a bequest, £1835.80 is key deposit money, creditors £797.85 and a reserve of £2014.04. After much discussion on grants, keys and water, it was agreed that the running costs ie the budget, had to be found out of the annual income and the reserve should not be used to back up annual running costs. Water bill is critical and will rise: it was noted that there is still too much waste and non-use of water in butts. Vote on acceptance of accounts carried.

6. **Field Secretary:** reported shrinkage of paths, need to stop people leaving stones, weeds etc on them.

7. **Shop:** After some discussion about the shop accounts, it was agreed further clarification of the shop financial position was needed. N Brooks volunteered to go through shop accounts with T Kirkby and I Matten. Results will be presented at next Committee meeting (9 Dec).

8. **Future of shop:** meeting asked to decide whether (1) to run down existing stock and close the shop, or (2) try to enlist a new manager and volunteers to keep it going. In absence of a volunteer to manage a team, it was decided to embark on course (1) but to re-assess after 3 months to see if the shop can be revived. B Whaley offered to assist with accounting and occasional shop duty.

T Kirkby was thanked for his hard work in setting up and running the shop till now.

9. **2014 Rent Increase:** the outcome of current City rent review still unknown (due before Sep 2014), but precedent suggests a 20% increase on the 2006 level likely in line with the RPI. After discussion it was decided the Committee's proposed £1 increase was not enough to cover the possible budget deficit and running costs and a £2 per plot rise was proposed and agreed, ie £25, £12.50, £7 for whole, 1/2, 1/4 respectively. Proposal from floor for £30 not supported. If City rise is higher, an Extraordinary General Meeting would be needed to revise this proposal before September 2014.

10. **Site Audits:** Some plots are being allowed to fall into disrepair and some members need to be warned and, if necessary, asked to leave if they do not improve. Some action taken this year but a more formal consistent approach needed. Requirement is for a team of auditors preferably led by Lettings Secretary to inspect and ensure plots properly cultivated. **Volunteers required** to assist. Final Inspection should take place before September rent due.

11. **Change to rule 24:** Meeting agreed to strengthen Rule 24 to increase fine for late payments to £10.

12. **Endorsement of Constitution & Rules:** carried. Chairman pointed out signature on rental form shows acceptance of rules.

13. **Election of Officers:**

President (I Matten) re-elected

Trustees (I Matten, D Penwarden, A Benfield) re-elected

Chair (C Sharp) re-elected

Treasurer (A Harpin) re-elected

Secretary and Letting Secretary posts remained unfilled: the latter could be combined with Site Audit co-ordinator .

Cathy Gibbs was thanked for her many years of sterling service.

P Hart offered to work on auditing of plots team.

R Russell has resigned from Cttee

We urgently need a Secretary and Lettings Secretary

14. **Brewster Cup:** awarded to Penny Farrar (52C). Cathy to recover pot. Present it at 9 Dec Committee meeting?

15. **AOB**

- **Winter party to be on Feb 2nd in Iffley Church Hall.** Andrew Benfield to compose gardening quiz.

- **Water:** now turned off till March

- **Working party 17 Nov 13**

- **Parking on access roads:** against Allotment rules, offenders must be reminded

- **Bad weather closure:** orange plastic barriers to be used instead of metal gates, to allow for disabled access.

- **Vote of Thanks** to Cathy for 14 years of service.

16. There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.