

Court Oak Road and Tennial Lane Allotments Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Emergency General Meeting

Tuesday 18th March 2014 7:30pm

Quinborne Community Centre

- 1) **Apologies**
Glenys Nicklin, Bob and Sandra Lintern, Marian Stanley.
- 2) **Acceptance of Minutes of the 2013 AGM**
Accepted.
- 3) **Matters Arising**
None.
- 4) **Officers' Reports**
 - i) **Chair's Report** - He thanked everybody for coming. Not all items from the previous AGM had been completed, but everything would be attended to and matters were ongoing. He gave a short report because of the important discussion of the management changes.
 - ii) **Secretary's Report** – he thanked all the officers, committee members and anyone else that helped around the sites. The report was short to allow time for discussion of the new management arrangements.
 - iii) **Treasurer's Report** – Interim report as the AGM is before the 6th April. So far our income has been £2,791, expenditure £2,398. This is a surplus of £422 compared to a deficit of £707 last year. Total money is £2,720, an increase of £198 from last year. No new equipment was purchased although we purchased new locks for the Court Oak Road site; all other expenditure was minor. Thanked all those that had helped with the site shop.
- 5) **Resolutions to Amend the Constitution**
A series of amendments were proposed to the constitution and accepted unanimously. Clauses 8.5-8.7 limit the liability of members and officers. Clauses 10.1-10.4 replaces the current membership criteria. All plot-holders become ordinary members, although full and associate members remain as before. The period of membership changes to 12 months from joining, and is no longer fixed October-October.
- 6) **Election of Officers**
 - i) **Chair** – Ian Wilson
 - ii) **Secretary** – Andrew Large
 - iii) **Treasurer** – John McQuay
 - iv) **Appointment of a Minute Secretary** – Marian Stanley
 - v) **Appointment of an Auditor** – Alison Lawson

- vi) Site Secretary
 - a) Court Oak – Andrew Moseley
 - b) Tennial Lane – Stuart Guest
 - vii) Safety Officer – Andrew Moseley
 - viii) Committee Members – Geoff Garrish, John McCarthy, Glenys Nicklin, Maxwell Tsopo, Dave Watkins.
- 7) **Discussion: Future of Allotments Management**
Due to financial constraints Birmingham City Council is cutting staff in the Allotments Office and asking the associations to take on more responsibility, such as for paying water charges. This is not necessarily a bad thing but some of the clauses in the new contract are unreasonable, especially clause 7.1 requiring the association to indemnify the council against all losses arising out of the agreement. Also there is concern that the contract is with individuals rather than the association as a body. A final decision was deferred to a future emergency meeting, whilst we seek amendments to and clarification of the agreement.
- 8) **Any Other Business**
Discussion on extending the water system at Court Oak Road but this is not advisable. A speaker from the Welsh House Farm Estate gave a short talk on a community project to improve the local environment for residents.
- 9) **Date, time and venue of next the Committee Meeting.**
It was agreed that we would meet again to agree or reject the new agreement. The date was set for 20th May 2014, but this may need to be changed.

Emergency General Meeting 29th April 2014

Vote on the management agreement with Birmingham City Council.

Much more responsibility is being transferred to the Associations. The Association needs to vote on the acceptance of the new Agreement/Contract, which has been modified since the AGM. The secretary outlined the new responsibilities being devolved to Allotment Associations. The agreement now includes improved Public Liability Insurance and guidelines/assistance on the cost of water leaks. Also clearer guidance on any maintenance, damage and/or works carried out by the Associations has been received. The attendees were asked to vote for acceptance or rejection.

By a show of hands the Agreement was accepted unanimously. The agreement was signed and witnessed by all committee members present.

Copies of the new agreement will be online on the website

www.buddlejagarden.co.uk/allotment/home.html

and hard copies will be available on both sites.