Court Oak Road Allotments Association
Committee Meeting
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 25th April 2017 19:30 hrs
at Quinborne Community Centre
Ridgacre Road, Quinton.

Attendance
Chairman - Ian Wilson, Treasurer - John McQuay, Secretary - Andrew Large and Glenys Nicklin. Also present approximately 13 plot holders present.

Apologies
Geoff Garrish and May O’Brian.

Minutes of previous meeting 13/04/2017 and Matters Arising
Minutes of last meeting accepted as correct by a show of hands from committee members.

Chair’s report
Thanks given to Court Oak Allotment members for attending the meeting. Posters shown for clean up day also skip provided for 01.07.2017. Reported that volunteers needed for clean up. Also donations required for cakes, jams and other sundries.

Date set for open day: 16.07.2017. Some plots cleared by council but will need to be sprayed for horsetail infestation later in the year. Plot holders will be able to use equipment in return for a small donation. They will also be provided with a health and safety talk prior to using equipment. Shed will be open for 1 hr instead of the 2hrs as set previously as 2 hrs seen as inefficient. Also there are times that people are around to open shed if needs be. Reports that builders of new housing estate have cut down a number of laurel hedges that were thought to be exempt from pruning. However this was reported to Birmingham City Council and a reply said that the building contractors would be planting native trees to maintain privacy.

Secretary’s report
Thanks given to all that attending the meeting. Reports that allotments remain in good order through good general maintenance. Suggested that people will be needed in the future to take on roles managing Court Oak Allotment e.g. general running of site. Therefore volunteers encouraged to take on become involved to maintain the site (active association). Vacancies are up to 20 empty plots but need more plots occupied to protect site from possible closure. Explained that volunteers would only need to attend approximately 4 meetings a year of 1hr. Occasionally volunteers for shed and maintenance of site (1 – 2 hrs).

Treasurer’s report
Financial reports and income discussed by Treasurer plus cash reserves. Court Oak Allotments have two bank accounts and Geoff Garrish to be a signatory on cheque book. To obtain a credit card associated with bank account for easy purchasing of items for shed and / or allotment. Cooperative shop CEO contacted for possible poster to advertise Court Oak Road allotments and to make the
community aware of where we are and how to contact us. Also the possibility of funding for raised beds to assist the disabled and ageing population to become healthier whilst gardening on site. It was reported that the shop was the biggest item of expenditure with water rates higher than 2016. Expenditure explained with the details given on the two sheets of the financial report.

Health and Safety
A written report was read out as Health and Safety Officer has sent his apologies. No serious incidents reported with security and maintenance. The need to remain vigilant to intruders and the security of the site remains high. Both gates need to be locked every time a member enters the site. Some rubbish cleared from last clean up and members urged not to use their plot to store rubbish or building materials. Lock on outer gate is very old and unreliable at times reported. Therefore the housing department at Birmingham City Council will be contacted to replace it with a new lock. Need to replace the “No Parking” sign on the outer gate.

Appointment of auditor
Alison Lawson voted as auditor by show of hands.

Appointment of minute secretary
Glenys Nicklin voted as minute secretary by show of hands.

Appointment of committee members
Chair – Ian Wilson re-elected
Secretary – Andrew Large re-elected
Treasurer – John McQuay re-elected
Election of committee members – Marian Stanley, Alison Lawson, Georgia Dunn, Astrid Fieß, Derek Payne and Stephenie Evans.

Call for volunteers
Volunteers may e-mail John McQuay to volunteer for the Open Day. Stall will hired out at £15:00 per stall for crafts and goods, but not food. Prizes needed for the raffle. To advertise the Open Day a sandwich board was suggested.

Any Other Business.
None.

Date set for next meeting 27.06.2017 at 19:00hrs in shed on Court Road Allotments.