

DRAFT

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2017 of Barton Fields Allotments held on March 25<sup>th</sup> in Barton Neighbourhood**

**Present:** Victor Clarke, David Washington, Dave Leggatt, Chris and Sally Butler, Bryan Talbot, Bob Stevens, Dave Spriggs, Joe Digweed, Sandra and John Clements, Stephen Leggatt, Alistair Smith, Nigel Wellman, Linda Kimber, Polly Whitworth, Sid Abbey, Artwell, Thomas Weissensteiner, Janette Washington, Janet Woodman, Jenny Wright, Laura Gilbert, Michael Evans, Kieran Carton

**Apologies:** Angela Buckett, Barry Taylor

**Minutes of the 2016 AGM:** were agreed as a correct record following one amendment requested by Linda Kimber to the Treasurer's Report (clarity of year) and circulated with the revised minutes. Proposed by Nigel Wellman and seconded by Thomas Weissensteiner.

### **Chairman's Report:**

- As a result of plot clearance courtesy of the Developers three full-sized plots are ready for tenants.
- Fundraising was successful via a raffle, table top sale, the Barton Bash and sale of jams and pickles. The sale of two sheds left behind on plots was sufficient to purchase two bench seats. The Committee agreed that the £1,000 grant received last year from the council should be used to buy two greenhouses. A list for access will be drawn up on an annual basis. Priority will be given to disabled or elderly people. For others it will be on a first come first served basis.
- Please make use of Dobies Catalogue for seeds which carry a 50% discount part of which could be paid to the Allotment Association.
- We had the best entry ever to the Federation Competition with several highly commended, one second in their age group and one first, Dave Spriggs. We were not ranked in the site competition but did not expect to be.
- Working parties have been cutting grass and removing litter. Members have been ready to put rubbish onto the communal bonfire but not to light it. It was suggested, therefore, holders retain rubbish on their plots. Once a month the working party may hold a bonfire if one is needed and the wind is in right direction and Members can take their rubbish over. There is no ban on Members having a bonfire on their plots apart from Sundays and Bank Holidays and wind direction.  
The revised arrangements were agreed by Members present.
- Pest control. The chair has had discussions with a representative of the local badger group and the environmental lead for the Developers. An artificial sett has been created outside the fence which is starting to be used. There is an increased risk, however, that they will come onto the site when the building work starts (most recent spotting of a badger on the allotments was a week ago).

Recommendations from the last Federation meeting for management of pigeons and rats was to cover the water troughs with netting and battens. Use of poison is discouraged.

- The Community Payback Scheme which uses those on probation for minor offences to undertake useful jobs could help with cutting the grass. A supervisor visits to assess the job and is present at all times. Botley Allotment Association has found the scheme useful although it was pointed out Barton has tried it in the past to no great effect.  
It was agreed by Members present that the scheme might be useful on Working Party days and was worth further exploration by the Chair.
- The Chair and Secretary have received material on health and safety relating to matters such as storage of equipment, what Members can hold on their plots. They will sift this before circulation.
- Developer issues. The Chair has met several times with Grosvenor. There are a number of points of dispute including removal of trees near the bypass for the creation of paths and removal of hedgerows by the perimeter fence. Both support wildlife necessary to the allotments. The Developers are still seeking to section off a quarter of the shed to create a flush toilet despite the view of the Allotment Association that a compostable toilet is needed because the water is turned off in the winter.
- Wild flower seed has been donated and a wild flower garden will be created near the fruit trees by the bench seats. The bug hotel will also be moved there.
- Please let the Committee know if there is anything else Members would like on the site. Also, could members clean machinery they use from the shed after use and report any repairs needed.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

The accounts show a healthy balance of £3,307.69. The Thames water bill was considerably lower at £178.06 and events bringing in £622.20.

Linda Kimber raised the question of a separate key account. The officers confirmed that it could be difficult to recover keys on cessation of plots by holders but deposits in that situation are not repaid. Deposits are always repaid by cheque. The problem of having code access rather than keys was discussed. It was agreed the new committee would look at this issue again.

The accounts are due to be audited in April. Once available, a separate General Meeting to confirm them will be held.

**Election of Officers:** The Chair and Treasurer were prepared to stand. Proposed by Nigel Wellman and seconded by Bryan Talbot.

It was proposed the Secretary role to be split between Janette Washington and Jenny Wright. Proposed by Nigel Wellman and seconded by Thomas Weissensteiner.

**Election of Committee:** Polly Whitworth, Bryan Talbot, Dave Leggatt, Nigel Wellman, David Washington, David Spriggs, Thomas Weissensteiner, Sid Abbott. Jordan Leggatt will become a Junior Committee Member.

**Proposed Amendment of Rules and Constitution:**

**Rule 18:** no dogs are allowed on the allotment at any time.

Amendments suggested: only Members' dogs are permitted on site and must be kept on a leash when not contained within the members' own plot. If a Member's dog fouls communal paths or roadways the dog litter must be removed immediately by the member. Any Member whose dog does not abide by these rules will no longer be able to bring their dog onto site.

**Agreed by Members present**

**Rule 32:** Members' signed receipt from their annual subscription is their agreement to abide by the Rules. Any subsequent amendments, as agreed at the AGM or General Meeting, will be posted on the noticeboard and on the website and may be circulated through the News Update.

Amendments suggested: payment of the annual subscription is a Member's agreement to abide by the rules. An electronic copy of updated rules is available from the Secretary. A copy will be displayed on the noticeboard on the side of the main shed at all times. They will also be displayed on the website and amendments circulated through the News Update.

**Agreed by Members present.**

**Rule 38:** Members will be requested to pay a refundable deposit, at a rate set by the Committee, for all keys pertaining to the site.

Amendment, add: An additional plot flat rate deposit will be required for new Members to be returned when they leave if the plot is left tidy and rubbish free.

**Agreed by Members present.**

**Members requested the Committee to review ways this might be done for current Members and return with proposals at next year's AGM.**

**Duties and Powers of the Committee:** L) The Committee may terminate a membership with 14 days' notice for stealing, threatening behaviour towards other Members, wildlife or poison offences.

Amendment: The Committee will terminate a membership immediately if there is proof that a Member has stolen from allotments, used violent/threatening behaviour towards other Members or committed wildlife or poison offences (by DEFRA) rules.

**Unanimously agreed by Members present.**

**Any other business:**

Presentations were made to Chris and Sally Butler for 'spud in a tub' and to Alistair Smith for the tallest sunflower the Competition winners for 2016.

Meeting ended at 12.30pm

Barton minutes