

**ASHFORD ALLOTMENT AGM followed by COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2017 COMMITTEE ROOM 2 CIVIC CENTRE**

Present:- Mrs P Winston-Chairman and Bybrook Cemetery  
Mr T Fagg- Cryol Road Mr G Button -Bulk Buying Manager  
Mrs B Raggett- Westrees, Mr M Cooper- William Road etc  
Mr M Chandler- Burton Field Ms S Haste- Musgrove,  
Mr C Leek-Beaver Ms J Fuggle- Repton  
Ms C Green-Henwood, Mr J Goodwin -Website Manager  
Carol Ridings- Secretary Eileen Law-Allotment Officer ABC  
Ms Alison Tickle- Environmental Contracts

Also present:-, Alan Burbridge, Colin Waldron, Mr & Mrs Pentecost,  
Mr & Mrs Botting, Mr Collison

### **1. Election of Officers**

No nominations had been received for any of the posts which had come up for re- election. The Chairman was happy to stand for the next 2 years as were all the post holders. Consequently all officers remain in post.

### **2. Chairman's Opening Remarks**

'This last year again has thrown up challenges to the growing and cultivation on allotments. We had extreme weather with very hot spells, followed by low rainfall and the driest December on record. Our major concern for crops was the damage by slugs to many more tender plants. We are now coping with some cold frosty conditions, but many welcome the return of icy frozen ground rather than wet and muddy soil that is impossible to work.

A major aim last year was to reduce water usage and grow without applying water to established crops.

We enjoyed a visit to the Windmill at Willesborough and our summer show proved to be an opportunity to share ideas and compliment the produce of the entries. Please encourage your tenants to think about entering a category for 2017 nearer the time. Everyone is welcome.

I wish you all a good growing season and look forward to seeing as many allotment gardeners in 2017 as possible'

Members of the public present were asked if they had any questions of officers or The Council.

Q .Mrs Pentecost- The car park at Henwood is in a dreadful state, overgrown trees, rubbish etc. This is outside the allotment site and is part of the estate road.

A. The Council will check the ownership of the land as it may belong to a management committee. If so they will be contacted to ask them to clear up the site.

Q. Mark Chandler- The track leading to Burton Farm has a number of large trees overhanging and dense foliage covering the track. The track has now become very narrow.

A.- The Council will again check ownership to see who the trees belong to.

Q- Mr Fagg asked about the lane going into the Westrees site, where the trees are overgrown.

A- The school own the land and some branches that overhang have been cut back. The school will be written to and asked if they can do further work.

Q- Mr Chandler was concerned that the notice board screening has disintegrated. This is a common problem around sites.

A- Notice boards are an issue, and this will be something that will be put on a forthcoming agenda for discussion. A laminated sign on the gate maybe more use.

Mr Waldron said that then new fence at Westrees is very good as has been the tree work done on site.

Mr Botting thanked the Committee and site reps for all the work that is done for the allotments.

### **No further questions, so business moved onto the Committee Meeting**

#### **1. Apologies**

Ms E Dew-Press/ Publicity Officer Mr S Heathfield- Gashouse Fields, Mr B Stamp- Treasurer

#### **2. Minutes**

Formally adopted

#### **3. Bulk Buying Managers Report**

Mr Button was not present but Mr Fagg said that new supplies of compost and seeds were in. Potatoes should be delivered the first week of February.

Prices of compost and horse manure have been reduced this year.

There were thanks to everyone who had helped in the seed shed.

#### **4. Treasures report**

Account 1 bank balance	£2640.97
Account 1 cash (float)	£ 26.73
Account 1 treasurers petty cash	£ 25.00
Account 1 Total	£2692.52

Account 2 bank balance	£2616.57
Account 2 cash (float)	£ 62.79
Account 2 sub total	£2679.36

Account 2 outstanding invoice	£ 114.10
Account 2 Total	£2565.26

Total cash assets	£5257.78
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## **5. Show Secretary's Report**

There is still a vacancy for this post.

The Chairman has written to Kennington Primary school, to the new head teacher about the show. Mr Stamp was going to contact Towers School to see if they had a venue suitable. The Show Schedule will be available from April, on line, on display at the seed shed and via e mail. It is probable that the school will not let us use their facilities out of school term time, last years show seemed too early for some members as the root crops were not ready, a few weeks later should be considered. The date will be considered at the April meeting.

## **6. Publicity Officer's Report**

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## **7 Website Manager's Report**

The website was launched a year ago.

There have been 1849 users of the site, 45% returning visitors.

An e mail was sent out quite late to remind people of the AGM, however it was felt by people at the meeting that the timing was right. An e mail sent too early and people forget about the meeting.

There have been 418 e mail contacts, 269 are or have been plot holders and 220 have been trading store members.

20 people have signed up manually – allotment holders and interested gardeners.

Nobody has used 'update your email' data.

39 e mails have bounced back, therefore the e mails have not been updated.

5 new allotment holders opted in from Eileen's list.

There has been 47% engagement from the list.

The newsletter appeared to have made more people come to the show.

The newsletter template will be modified, and the archive of previous newsletters will be done, together with improved data with the trading store information.

Mr Goodwin offered training for any Committee Member who wished it.

The Chairman gave thanks to Mr Goodwin for his time and effort on the website.

The Chairman said that the yellow membership cards had been very successful. 2017 membership cost is £4. There are 148 signed and paid up members of the trading store, and 28 new e mail contacts.

## **9. Report of the Allotment Officer**

From 1 November 2016 to 25 January 2017 there have been 26 new lets and 20 terminations.

1 vacant plot : Beaver Field, Bybrook Cemetery, Christchurch Road, Orion Way, Repton

3 vacant plots : Burton Farm, Henwood, Musgrove Farm

4 vacant plots : Gas House Fields, Westrees, William Road

34 people are on the waiting list

The Chairman explained that some of the plots have been cut in half and Eileen has been terminating tenancies quickly.

## **10. Site representatives report**

Westrees- There has been 1 shed broken into so far this year, access gained through St Teresa's school ground. The school has mended the fence.

Musgrove- OK .A site visit is planned with Eileen as a few tenants need sorting out.

Burton Farm- No vacancies but a few plots need keeping an eye on.

Henwood- There have been a number of new tenants, who are putting the existing tenants to shame. There has been a cut in the fence which one tenant has repaired. Eileen will have a look.

Cryol Road- No problems. A plastic cover for the notice board is required and posters have disappeared.

The Chairman will ask Ms Dew to do a survey of all the notice boards and what should be displayed on them.

Beaver- No problems. The Trees have been removed which has opened up the site.

Repton- There maybe a further vacant plot. Eileen will provide a map of the site to Ms Fuggle.

Christchurch/ William Road-

Jemmett- ok Christchurch- 1 new plot holder

William Road, the new fence is very good. A new fence is now required on Musgrove.

Bybrook- 1 vacant plot. Newcomers are making a good effort.

## **12. New Agreement between tenants and The Council**

Alison Tickle introduced herself. She has been looking at a new agreement and the rules and regulations booklet, so new tenants will know what is expected from them when they sign up for a plot. The new agreement will be sent out to all tenants. The agreement for example will restrict the size of sheds

## **13. AOB**

Ms Green said that on Facebook someone was looking for plots on Gas House Fields. It was confirmed that 2 plots had been let to a charity

**Date of the next Meeting Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 20017 Committee Room 2**

This is due to committee rooms being required for elections in early May