

Bidford On Avon Allotment Association

Allotment Committee Annual General Meeting - October 24th 2022 - held in Parish Rooms

Committee members present: Wayne Gould, Phil Withers, Alison Giles, Sue Reeves, Kirsty Bax (chaired the meeting).

Apologies: Malcolm Dewsbury, John Sandle

Attendees on behalf of Parish Council: Angela Deacon, Elizabeth Uggerloese (clerk to the council)

22 other people attended (not all plot holders)

1. Chairman's report – delivered by Kirsty

This year has been a difficult year for plot holders, it was the driest summer since 1995, despite this there were some very productive allotments. The committee has had a busy year and achieved a lot including redefining the tenancy agreement, reviewing and republishing the Memorandum of Understanding, erecting new noticeboards, joining the National Allotment Association on top of the monthly plot inspections and letters re. plots with cultivation issues, clearing of vacated allotments, reallocations etc. There have also been a few security issues such as fly tipping and rubbish burning on the back track along with an incident of burglary when the locks to the back track were vandalised.

2. Treasurer's report:

a) Current balance (as at 28/09/22)	£2,559.95
b) Rent due to PC (Oct 2022 – March 2023)	£368.94
c) Bank compensation from account set up	£350
d) Deposits returned	-£75.00
e) Deposits retained	£538.01
f) Deposits Currently held	£950.00
g) Deposits new since October 2021	£450.00
h) Allotment costs since October 2021 Membership, £69.71 for new locks)	£100.71 (£31 Allotment Association Membership, £69.71 for new locks)
i) Advance rent for March 2023	£9.00
j) Unpresented cheques	£69.71

Several skips have been paid for by the parish council.

3. Allocation report (Phil)

15 on waiting list last year at this time, 7 on waiting list now.

17 plots have been allocated in the year.

2 new plots have been created.

3 plot holders have upsized

4. AOB

Question - What have skips been used for? - Answer – At the end of tenancies often a lot of rubbish, glass, detritus etc. is left behind, this has to be cleared and the skips are for this.

Malcolm Smith raised the issue of security on the allotments particularly from the roadside and down the back track. This is an issue over the whole allotment site and a long discussion ensued

(including the lack of police action and the point that this might be increased if knives are stolen). An extra bollard has been put in at the end of the back track but offenders can escape easily. CCTV was discussed, this will be considered by the Allotment Committee and discussed with the Parish Council, Crawford Hall Committee, Tennis and Bowls clubs.

Joe raised the issue of 2 overhanging trees on the back track which might hinder delivery lorries – Phil agreed to cut these back.

Reg Turville raised the issue of neglected plots which are a waste and affect neighbouring plot holders significantly. These are all taken note of during the monthly inspections and letters are written according to the procedure laid out in the tenancy agreement. New plot holders are given a year's grace to enable them to see if having an allotment is for them. Kirsty is working on a basic handbook for new plot holders to help them to start on their allotment journey.

5. Minutes of 2021 AGM - Actions:

There was a discussion about 'troublesome plots' and a conclusion that the tenancy agreement needed renewing, this has been done in the past year by the committee.

There was a discussion about 'structures' on plots, such as poly-tunnels. This resulted in more clauses being added to the tenancy agreement.

There was a discussion on the 'acceptable use' of plots with percentages of cultivation required, this has been clarified and included in the revised tenancy agreement.

It was mentioned that the Crawford Hall bins must not be used by plot holders to dispose of rubbish. This has improved. The quality of parking in the CH car park has not improved.

It was reported that a noticeboard was missing – 3 new noticeboards have been installed this year and information such as the tenancy agreement.

There had been issues with the burning of non-garden waste – the only issue this year has been the fly tipping on the back track.

Clarification was requested on the subject of parking on the allotment plots particularly for those with reduced mobility. This remains an outstanding action.

There was a request for a toilet to be installed at the allotment. A huge amount of work has been done by previous committee members several years ago on this subject. The contentious issue has always been who would maintain and clean such a toilet. April Webb mentioned that a composting toilet has been installed at Welford allotments and that she has a contact to investigate this. It will be further looked at by the committee.

6. Election of Committee Members:

The following committee members have resigned:

Malcolm Dewsbury – Chair – resigned in September

John Sandle – Vice Chair – he no longer is a plot holder

Sue Reeves - Treasurer

Alison Giles and Heather Blake

The following plot holders were nominated as Committee members and duly elected.

April Webb – proposed by Sue Reeves – seconded by Malcolm Smith

Paul Hulbert – proposed by Kirsty Bax – seconded by Wayne Gould
Wayne Gibson – proposed by Sue Reeves – seconded by Malcolm Smith
Jackie Williams – Proposed by Sue Reeves – seconded by Kirsty Bax

Sarah Griffiths thanked those committee members stepping down for their efforts.