

WELLESBOURNE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 24TH FEBRUARY 2011
AT 7.45 PM IN THE WELLESBOURNE CONSERVATIVE CLUB

The Chairman (Mr K Wheal) opened the meeting by welcoming all those present, with a special welcome to new members.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded from Mr & Mrs Downs, Mr & Mrs Aiello, Ms Pinson, Mr Crabtree, Ms H Holding, Mr C Lancashire, Mr & Mrs Ortu, Mr K Swingewood and Ms P Gaskell.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the AGM held on 25th February 2010 were read and approved.

3. PRESENTATION OF BEST ALLOTMENT COMPETITION 2010

The winner of the "Best Allotment" Competition 2010 was Mr Ken Manning, who was presented with the cup and cheque by the Chairman.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ken Wheal reported that it had been a busy year, during which he, Ken Manning and Dave Roche had attended a meeting with John Grantham and David Johnston to discuss the idea of new allotments, which the Council must provide. However, there is a little nervousness that if new allotments are provided, the Glebe (land owners of the current allotments, known as the Tollgate Allotments) would say that we do not need these. Within 18 months, we should see what will happen under the Council Core Proposal, but in the meantime we should keep our allotments clean and tidy, and with a small waiting list.

Ken Wheal reported that he had been approached by the Chedhams Yard Project Manager, with a view to our taking over a small area of the Yard to turn into a 1900-style allotment. The area would need clearing first, and then we would have to keep the allotment going. Volunteers would be required – at the moment it is envisaged that the project would start late Autumn, with planting to start next Spring.

The Chairman proposed that the scrap dealer used previously should be asked to provide a skip for additional scrap metal items on the allotments. This received a comment from Mr R Band that the dealer should not be allowed actually onto the allotments and proposed that the skip should be placed outside the gate. Ken Wheal agreed to consider this.

There have been reports of thefts still continuing in the local area – a particularly serious one at Moreton Morrell College. Ken Wheal reiterated that the last person leaving the allotment area should ensure that the gate is locked.

With regard to vehicle speed on the allotment track, Ken Wheal told the Meeting that there were two reasons for the sign limiting speed to 5 mph. Firstly, the track cost a lot of money, and secondly, that there are lots of children on the allotments. All members are requested to keep to the speed limit.

The Chairman concluded his Report by thanking the ex-Committee members for their work in the previous year.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Mr K Manning suggested that it would be a better idea to attach the accounts report to the AGM Minutes, and would try to do this in the future.

He went on to say that the annual rent is £1600, which is divided between the 95 current members. The Land Agents, Godfrey-Payton, will be carrying out a rent review in December 2011.

The main income for the Association is generated by rent and water charges. Other amounts have been raised from various activities such as the Street Fayre tombola and the Village Show produce stall. The shop sales continue steadily and we have a considerable amount of stock. This is held as part of the assets. Mr Manning said that members requiring goods from the shop can see any Committee member.

The income from seed catalogue sales was good last year. It is a very worthwhile source of income for the Association, but he warned that the income this year would be less as fewer orders had been received. Mr Manning encouraged members to support the seed catalogue income as much as possible, especially as the Street Fayre would not be held this year, thus making seed sales even more important. He went on to thank the Secretary and Seed Organiser for their work.

Overall, the balance sheet showed £151 more income than expenditure. The bank balance showed £2193 at the end of December 2010.

Other items of expenditure:

These include the prizes for the Best Kept Allotment winner and donation to Mr B Cooke, who judges the competition. This competition offers good prize money and is well worth trying to win.

Insurance – the NSA subscription gives the Association public indemnity in the case of being sued. This costs £2 per member.

Hedge – due to the dieback of the buckthorn in the hedge and the fact that it is becoming increasingly hard to cut, it had been decided that it would be a good idea to replace the buckthorn with beech. These had to be purchased at short notice – 300 replacements cost £248. Hopefully these will take over the existing hedge.

Ken Wheal told the Meeting that theoretically the beech trees should not have been bought without the permission of the members. He proposed that Committee members should be allowed a "float" of up to £200 to use for the purchase of items that can't wait until the next AGM. This proposal was agreed on a show of hands.

The Treasurer reported that he had attended a National Allotments Association training day at Perry Barr, where it was suggested that Associations should ensure that Allotment Secretary expenses for the costs of stationery and printing are covered. He therefore proposed that the honorarium to the Secretary should be raised to £20. This proposal was passed on a show of hands.

Questions from the floor:

Why was the beech tree purchase not shown in the Accounts?

Ken Manning replied that the expenditure was after the cut-off date and will be shown in the Accounts for 2011-2012.

How did rental income total £1852.50 for the year if rents are either £20 or £40?

Ken Manning replied that some plots are smaller than others.

If the Shop assets show £477 closing valuation, what was the opening valuation?

Ken Manning replied that it should be £477 for this year.

6. LETTINGS SECRETARY REPORT

Dave Roche told the Meeting that 15 plots had been re-let since February 2010. There are 16 on the current waiting list.

If anyone wanted a dismantled greenhouse, they should talk to Mr Parkes.

Wellesbourne in Boom had donated the bulbs planted alongside the hedgerows.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following members were re-elected for the year 2011/2012:

Chairman	Ken Wheal
Treasurer	Ken Manning
Letting Secretary	Dave Roche
Secretary	Chris Latham
Seed Organiser	Harry Atkinson
Committee Member	Adrian Dixon
Committee Member	Diane Major
Committee Member	Janet Parker
Committee Member	Steve Parr

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Ken Manning told the meeting that regretfully Charles Déath died before Christmas.
- Ken Manning reported that he was trying to arrange a visit to Highgrove for a maximum party of 26. This would currently cost £16.50 per head and included a guided tour of the gardens. All slots had unfortunately gone for this year, but would members be interested in such a tour. On an encouraging show of hands, Ken said that he would investigate further.
- Ken Wheal and Ken Manning discussed the NSA National Garden Scheme, who have shown an interest in putting allotments on their site to visit. In Warwickshire, the lady responsible would decide which allotments at their best would be added. KW and KM wanted to know the Meeting's response to proposing our allotments for visits next year. Gate money would be charged and donated to Cancer Relief. Visitors would walk up and down the allotments and then leave. These visits could be co-ordinated with teas with Wellesbourne Lions or Chedham's Yard etc. A show of hands was in favour of this proposal.
- Questions from the floor:

Could the Chairman give a brief situation report on the current situation regarding tenure of present site for those who were not present at other meetings?

Ken Wheal told the meeting that the Parish Council does not own the present allotment area – it belongs to the Church of England. The area was taken off the Local Church Council 15-20 years ago. Rent goes to the Diocese of Coventry via Local Agents Godfrey Payton. Various

further possible alternative sites have been looked at. These involve a continuation of our allotments and also an area in Lowes Lane. The core strategy structure is still awaited and "should" be published in 18 months. The Parish Council members are all on our side, but if an alternative site is found, there is a possibility that the Diocese will suggest that the current site is no longer required. We have to be on our guard against this and ensure that our allotments are kept worked and in good condition, to show that an "alternative" site is required as well as our current site.

Lids have gone missing off the water tanks. Are these being stolen?

Ken Wheal answered that most of the problems have been caused by the extremely high winds experienced lately. Most "lost" lids can be found somewhere around the allotments.

He went on to tell members that thieves have broken into sheds again and impressed on members that such break-ins should be reported to the Police, who otherwise cannot see the extent of the problem.

9. RAFFLE

The Raffle was drawn and those who had contributed prizes were thanked for their efforts.

END OF MEETING