

WELLESBOURNE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 1ST MARCH 2012
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 Aiello, Mrs Ankrett, H Haywood, C Brayshaw, Mr C Lancashire, Mrs Chislett, Mr K Swingewood, Mrs P Gaskell, Mr G Fisher, Ms H Holding, Mrs A Langston

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the AGM held on 24th February 2011 were read and approved.

3. PRESENTATION OF BEST ALLOTMENT COMPETITION 2011

The winner of the "Best Allotment" Competition 2011 was Mr Ken Manning, who was presented with the cup and cheque by the Chairman.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ken Wheal began his report by expressing his regret on the death of Harry Atkinson, the Association's Seed Organiser for many years, who had passed away in January. He will be missed as a familiar face on the allotments.

He went on to tell the meeting that it had been a quiet year – no fighting to save the allotments. A revised draft proposal had been released, outlining 13 possible sites for development in the future – but not including the allotment site. There may be other potential development sites in the future, but all correspondence gathered over the years will be kept on file for future reference.

Ken mentioned the NGS Open Day planned for 15th July, but that the subject would be expanded later on in the meeting.

He also mentioned that some sheds had been broken into yet again and impressed upon the meeting that the gate was still being left open late at night and that the last person on the allotments should ensure that the gate is locked to form at least some sort of deterrent to would-be thieves.

Floor: P Smith thought that the main problem access area was the hedge across the back of the allotments. He has fitted a solar-powered light under his shed which gives a 180° arc of light when triggered.

With reference to the Chedham's Yard project, Ken reported that a small allotment is well under construction and should be open some time this summer. An allotment had also been started at Wellesbourne School, which as well as sparking the interest of pupils, may well help in any future fights over keeping the allotments.

The Chairman concluded his Report by thanking the ex-Committee members for their work in the previous year, and said that he would not be standing as Chairman or committee member this year.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Mr K Manning began his report by saying how much the Association appreciated what Ken Wheal has accomplished over the years. It had been a difficult period over the uncertainty of the allotments, contacting members to keep them informed etc, and wished to thank Ken for all his hard work.

Ken hoped that attaching the financial report to the AGM meeting notice had been of help to the members, allowing them the chance to study the details before the AGM. He went on to say that following a review, the Land Agents (Godfrey-Payton) had raised the annual rent to £2000 for our site. There has not been a rent rise for the last 7 years, so this is equivalent to a 3½% rise per year. In order to cover the rent, the cost for a half plot has to rise to £23 and a full plot to £46 (with water). Full membership means the rent is covered by more people.

The financial report showed a balance of income over expenditure in the amount of £561.28 (due to an additional seed order that had been received).

Ken said that it had been a dry year, leading to a lot of water being used. Water prices are likely to rise by 50% this year, and the cost of water to members will have to rise next year.

Shop sales had shown a healthy profit. Plot holders can ask any committee member for goods from the shop.

He proposed an honorarium of £20 should be given to the Secretary. This proposal was passed on a show of hands.

6. LETTINGS SECRETARY REPORT

Dave Roche told the Meeting that all plots are let. He has re-let 8 plots, and 5 letters have been sent out regarding non-cultivation of plots. There are 13 people on the current waiting list.

7. NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

Ken Manning said that the NGS covers 2 cancer charities. We are the first allotment association in Warwickshire to become part of the scheme. There are 3800 properties open to the general public, and the date of Sunday 15th July 2012 (14:00 – 17:00) had been decided for our Open Day.

Ken said there were many details that had to be sorted out – publicity, signs, provisions, seating, produce & plants, scarecrow judging, gazebos, tea, cakes etc etc. There would be a £20 prize for the best scarecrow, and a National Trust ticket for 2 people anywhere, anytime, which could be used in a draw for those members who help.

Subsequent to the meeting, volunteers gave their names to the Secretary and a special planning meeting will be held at the Conservative Club on Thursday 15th March 2012 at 7.30 pm.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following members were elected or re-elected for the year 2012/2013:

Chairman	Adrian Osborn	Committee Member	Pete Smith
Treasurer	Ken Manning	Committee Member	Diane Major
Letting Secretary	Dave Roche	Committee Member	Janet Parker
Secretary	Chris Latham	Committee Member	Steve Parr

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Questions from the floor:

The speed limit along the allotment track is causing concern.

Ken Wheal impressed on the members that the speed limit has to be observed.

Members should challenge anyone on the allotments they do not recognise. This has happened, and the following week, sheds were broken into.

Could the Notice Board be kept up-to-date - Ken Manning promised to do this.

Is it right for plot holders to grow fruit trees on their allotments, as these could cause problems for future members. Ken Manning said he didn't think there was anything in the regulations against growing fruit trees.

What mark-up is there on goods in the allotment shop, as members should benefit from smaller prices. Ken said that it was usually 5-10%, but that it did allow extra profit for the Association. We will have to replace the fencing across the field plus water cost rises.

What is the waiting time for allotments? Ken said that it was currently 2 – 3 years.

10. RAFFLE

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

END OF MEETING