

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2015
AT 7.45PM IN WELLESBOURNE VILLAGE HALL

1.

The chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all those present, with a special welcome to new members. (60 members present) he also thanked Anne-Marie Ortu for stepping in as Acting Secretary at short notice and presented her with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Thanks were also given to Tracey Claines for all her previous hard work as secretary .

2.

The only apologies for absence came from Mr/s Scott from plot 40A.

3.

Copies were circulated and approved.

4.

N/A so minutes passed.

5.

CHAIRMAN'S DIARY

Diary was circulated of the previous 12 month's activities. Pete mentioned that he and Ken had helped Kineton PC with their proposed new allotments plan.

6.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

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Finance report had been sent to all members with AGM info.

Land rent had been reviewed and increased.

Other costs include Public Liability Insurance and Competition Costs.

A committee decision had been made not to renew membership of the NSALG as benefits are negligible against the cost.

Fundraising – there was a big drop in the funds raised via Dobies seed order £144 compared to £255 the previous year. Good feedback was given from those members who had used Dobies. members are encouraged to try an place an order as WAA receive a small commission for every order – every little helps as they say!

Query on the Dobies costs element of the report were answered by KM

Street Fayre raised a total of £136.75 plus £75.65 from the produce stall.

The quality and the quantity of the produce donated was quite poor and included preserves that were out of date. Please, if you are going to donate ensure the produce is of a standard that you would happily accept.

Remainder of security grant is to be used to purchase hedging for the front of the allotment site. Thank you to Brian Jarvis for erecting the second stage of fencing.

A question was raised asking for a budget of expenditure to be introduced for forthcoming years. Many expenditures are identified in advance, however it is difficult to budget for unknowns such as damage repairs.

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9 plots let during 2014.

Several new plots had become overgrown and after reminder letters had been sent 3 agreements were terminated.

Several members downsized and plots were re-let..

7 currently on the waiting list.

Pete Smith gave a reminder of the speed limit on the site as a number of families with young children are using the site. Also to be courteous regarding parking.

7.

KM advised that a 2015 Open day would not be happening but suggested that WAA do hold an open day in 2016

Gate money only to NGS

Funds raised from refreshments and produce to WAA

Proposed to members to go ahead – the majority agreed.

A planning group will be required – names to be given to Anne-Marie

8.

Andy Palin set up the WAA website last year and it has attracted people to our site.

Andy Palin and Anne-Marie to work on updating the site.

Andy has requested that members contribute pictures, recipes and any articles that may be of interest to other members.

9.

The original entrance was never properly laid and now needs repairing and strengthening.

Steve Parr has 2 estimates so far - £2000 if using concrete and £3000 if using tarmac. Steve estimates that WAA could purchase the materials at a cost of £1500 – labour would be free if WAA members joined force, but, would we achieve lasting quality?

WAA committee to investigate ways of raising funds :

- PC Grant
- Match funding
- Sponsorship from local businesses
- Suggested one-off payment from members
- Raising rents to increase WAA funds

to be investigated and results will be feedback to all WAA members once collated.

10. **' QUESTION TIME**

Andy Palin gave a presentation on how the event came about and who was involved – representatives from the following groups all contributed :

- Wellesbourne Allotment Association
- Wellesbourne in Bloom
- Wellesbourne and Walton Horticultural Society
- Charlecote Park
- Compton Verney
- HRI
- Wellesbourne C of E Primary School

The event was a great success with over 350 guests in the audience – almost double the normal studio audience they expect! The Stratford Artshouse as a venue was very professionally run and the presenters and crew all very happy with the services provided. The panel answered some very interesting questions and the program will be broadcast on

11. **2014 “Best Kept Allotment”** – presentation of trophy by Richard Band (2013 winner) to Ron Knight from plots 16A and B

12. **2015 “Best Kept Allotment”**

Proposed to members – all agreed for the competition to go ahead.

13.

Chairman – Pete Smith

Treasurer – Ken Manning

Secretary – Anne-Marie Ortu

Lettings Secretary – Brian Jones

Committee Members - Jessica Pinson
Steve Parr
Marion Allerton
Di Major
Wendy Nekar

14.

Last Wednesday or Thursday of February 2016

15.

- a) Security at the far end of the allotments was raised. Plot 55b pointed out that they are very exposed and have been broken into twice. Committee member to visit plot and discuss.

Solutions could be bramble planting and also applying to SDC or WDC for a hedging grant.

Applications to be made to Woodland Trust who are offering free trees at the moment.

Application to PC to be investigate for submission for a hedging grant.

Suggestion was made that we approach the neighbouring landowner for assistance in maintaining the boundary and requests not to spray anything that may harm new planting.

- b) A query was raised on the cost of a quarter plot – the correct rate is £13 for a quarter plot to include use of water.
- c) Pete Smith took the final minutes of the meeting to announce that he will be standing down as Chairman at the end of 2015. If anyone is interested in standing for Chairman and would like to know more about the role please contact Pete.

10.

Thanks to everyone who donated prizes for the raffle. We received over 40 prizes and raised £83 from the raffle and £19.92 from the refreshment donations.