

## **Hotwells and District Allotments Association**

### **Annual General Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

Present : Bob Franks Angie Tonge Bob Corfield Roy Davis John Holland Lyndsay Newman  
Carolyn Robinson Peter Tucker Heather Jenne Graeme Dowling Phil Cass Stan Morgan  
Steve Clampin

22 members attended the meeting.

The President Stan Morgan opened the meeting at 7.35p.m.

**In Memoriam** The Chairman Bob Franks spoke about Eric Grimes who sadly died last year. We held a minute's silence.

The Chairman then introduced Eric's two sons Tim and Nick who presented the Eric Grimes Cup for the best first year tenant to Colin Postlethwaite. Both Tim and Nick spoke about the importance of their father's enjoyment working in the Stores and Allotments. After the presentation Tim and Nick then left. (See Photos Page – Webmaster).

The Harry Green Cup for the best plot was then presented to Chris Walsh K12 11a.

### **Last Year's Minutes**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011 were proposed by Sarah Ogden and seconded by Tess Green. There was a show of hands and the Minutes were accepted as a true and proper record.

### **Chairman's Report**

#### **Membership**

Last year I reported that there were 472 members on 504 plots.  
The policy of new lettings of only half plots continues.  
As a result we now have 484 members on 510 plots.

The Waiting List numbers about 200. There was the usual outflow of tenants in October when reality sets in and the effort involved becomes daunting for some. It is never as easy as it appears on television. We expect the list to grow to nearer the 250 mark by the end of 2012.

The E-mail coverage of members has increased to around 69 %.. This makes it much easier to contact members and cuts down the cost of distributing Quarterly Newsletters.  
So if you have not hitherto provided us with details, please contact the Treasurer/Webmaster.

#### **Land**

The land between the railway and the site at White City is still to be sold as part of the British Rail Residuary disposal. Only then are we promised this would be gifted to Bristol City Council and leased to us for expansion of the site. The present economic state has so far deterred developers.

The area outside the back gate of the White City site is still under request, but Bristol City Council have yet to decide on it's release from Parks.

The area of land behind "Tildenet" off the bottom of Hartcliffe Way at Bristol Vale was looked at by the Committee but it was decided that the remoteness, topography and the high cost of providing for security ruled it out.

The Long Ashton option has not been pursued to conclusion as we have lost contact with the person concerned. We will however redouble our efforts to source possibilities there where the costs involved with setting up might be more feasible.

Some of you will have seen an article in the Evening News headlined "New Homes Could Spring up on Allotments"; reporting that our Alderman Moores site was under threat on a City Council list. This generated a lot of worry for some of our members. It was of course due to sloppy reporting, as the area concerned was the old Council allotment site next door. I believe the paper has now published a correction after my swift E-mail to their News desk.

### **Security**

The Chairman briefed the meeting on the break-ins at AM, BA and KL2 and intended subsequent actions.

### **Maintenance**

Of plots, of tools and of sheds. There is much to do after recent high winds and break-ins. It is vital that doors are securely closed as should the wind get inside it could easily blow off the roof. There is roof felt and wood preservative in the Stores.

Now that the weather is easing it is time for soil preparation and the cleaning or replacement of tools.

### **Water**

As promised, the Water systems on Bower Ashton and on The Meadows have been completely changed to provide new mains and more dip-tanks.

The next on the list will be both Kennel Lodges. It is hoped to do that work this autumn, but that will depend on the cost of providing for new fencing and gates. We aim set aside some £10,000 each year for development of infrastructures.

### **Rubbish Clearance**

I repeat that new tenant's finding metal, glass, plastic or old carpeting need to place items on the verge at the front of the plot by the hauling way; whence it will be collected for disposal. Items from other than new tenancies will not be collected and must be disposed of by the tenant.

Remember that smoke from bonfires or incinerators must not cause concern to neighboring plot holders or the public. There can be severe penalties if this is ignored. Winds can be fickle. Personal supervision is essential at all times. Do not leave the site without fires being properly extinguished.

### **Lectures and Workshops**

Events such as 'Gardener's Question Time' and 'No Dig Gardening', 'Cultivating Workshop', 'Pruning' and 'Grafting' have been very popular in the past. But we are desperately in need of a volunteer to organize events.

### **Association Web Site**

Web master, Bob Corfield, has yet again upgraded the site, which is now one of the star attractions in the Bristol panoply.

### **Rents**

I hope you will appreciate the fact that despite rising costs [particularly water] and an increasing call on resources, we have been able to maintain our plot rents at the previous year's rates.

Although next year we may have to increase them, we are well under those charged for Bristol City Council plots. This is in no small measure due to the profit from the Association Stores and the careful husbandry of expenditures. The Treasurer will give you more details in his report.

### **Stores**

I must take this opportunity to commend overall Stores Manager Stan Morgan and Ron Pedley [Seeds Manager] for the tremendous amount of work they put in to ensuring that items are purchased at a level that enables stock to be sold at very competitive prices and still give the Stores a reasonable profit. This purely voluntary work is essential to effectiveness of the Stores. 'Open All Hours' has got nothing on them with their good-natured banter and knowledge of their 'job'. If they have not got it they will get it!

Ron also takes care of the Bower Ashton store for those on local sites.

Stan and Ron make frequent trips to Somerset with our Vehicle and Trailer to get the very best deals in compost.

The helpers in the store are also critical to its success. All are volunteers prepared to give up a couple of hours of a Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday mornings.

### **Committee**

#### **President**

**Stan Morgan** has been of incalculable value as both Store's Manager and President. He took over the Store at very short notice and has gone from strength to strength.

Besides keeping two superb plots, he has been at the forefront of representing the Association and common sense at Committee meetings.

### **Treasurer, Webmaster, Site Rep KL1 and Deputy Chairman**

**Bob Corfield** is all of those things. A one-man band you might say. Fortunately he has relinquished his Sea Cadets post and retired from full time work. He is responsible for most of the mailings (email and post).

### **Secretary**

**Angie Tonge** maintains all the definitive file records for all, members, arranges meetings and the cover for the Stores. Minutes are published by E-mail virtually overnight. A talented artist with a growing family, she teaches the disadvantaged. The most unlikely grandmother you have ever seen. Keeps us very much in order with just a look!

### **Plots Secretary**

**Peter Tucker** will be known to anyone who has joined us in the past few years. He maintains the Waiting List for the Association and deals with all the induction documentation for admission. His records are the definitive ones for membership for returns and other data. Peter has created the Member's Pack that proves so useful to new tenants; irrespective of their previous experience at gardening. He certainly keeps the administrative wheel well and truly oiled as well as offering great advice in Committee.

### **Newsletter Editor**

**Heather Jenne** continues to organize the Quarterly Newsletter in such a way as to not only use it as a vital means of communication but injects a little humour and topical events and a myriad of recipes--in case we should forget why we are growing all this stuff! She is also keen on trying unusual cultivars and writing about them. Her plot is quite brilliant.

### **Seeds Manager**

**Ron Pedley** is a very capable seeds man who orders and arranges all the seeds sold by the Store. If you have a query or want advice on that subject, he's your man.

### **Environment**

We are fortunate to have **Carolyn Robinson** on the team to pick up on any environment issues affecting Committee decisions. A busy working lady with much traveling, she never the less keeps an eye on our deliberations and sees that we keep within the bounds of our Environment Statement.

### **Site Reps**

#### **Roy Davis**

The doyen of the Site Reps, Roy has a full time job but still does a great job caring for the tenants on Bower Ashton. He has practical views in Committee that illuminate discussions.

### **Phil Cass**

Phil has not only to run about half of the total of Association allotments at Alderman Moores, but he is also the Maintenance Manager for the whole lot and therefore responsible for sheds, grasses and hedges outside plots, minor security matters and gate locks. He is paid a small retainer for those services and he earns every penny. Phil also has to earn a self-employed living. Two Assistant Site Reps assist him: **John Tully** and **Malcolm Clark**.

**John Holland** takes care of White City, maintains our Capital Expenditure schedule and has written the definitive Association Policy Statement on Beekeeping. He is also a beekeeper. **Graeme Dowling** who is eager to help anyone on White City with allotment problems and maintaining the infrastructure assists him.

### **Terry Hoskins**

Terry is conveniently living opposite the Kennel Lodge gate and is always ready to help new tenants onto the right lines, he is a very experienced gardener.

### **Lyndsay Newman**

Living around the corner from her site at The Meadows, Lyndsay is in full time work but as an experienced gardener she guides her members in a persuasive manner and is a very important contributor to debate in Committee.

The Chairman said he would like to thank the Committee for their support and friendly teamwork throughout the year and commend them for re-election by this meeting.

### **Election of Committee**

John Parke proposed that the committee is re elected and Steve Fay seconded. There was a show of hands and the Committee members were re elected unanimously.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Post</b>
Bob Franks	Chairman
Bob Corfield	Treasurer, K11 Site Rep and Web Master
Peter Tucker	Plots Secretary
Angie Tonge	Secretary
Phil Cass	AM Site Rep and Maintenance
Roy Davis	BA Site Rep
Heather Jenne	Editor for Newsletter
Lyndsay Newman	Mds Site Rep
Carolyn Robinson	Environmental Concerns
John Holland	WC Site Rep
Terry Hoskins	KL2 Site Rep
Ron Pedley	Seeds Manager
Malcolm Clark	AM Assistant Site Rep
John Tully	AM Assistant Site Rep
Graeme Dowling	WC Assistant Site Rep

## **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer thanked Iggy Fung who has audited the Accounts. He reported that the figures have remained fairly consistent. Stores profit is slightly down. The Treasurer explained that he has introduced the use of constrained accounts and explained the incomings and outgoings with the aid of two pie charts.

Phillip Keene asked about the £10,000 earmarked to spend on the Association and queried the acquisition of new sites. The Chairman replied that we could raise external funds for new sites. Steve Clampin said BCC would support any application we would make for extra land. Phillip Keene then asked how many tenants have left during the year. The Plots Secretary, Peter Tucker replied that about 100 tenants have left, and that we have about a 7-9 months waiting list for AM and up to 2 years for the other sites.

Steve Fay suggested that the Store workers dividend might be set against the profits. He then recommended the work of the Treasurer and the Committee.

The Chairman asked the Members if they were happy to accept the Accounts and not go to outside Audit. John Parke proposed and Tess Green seconded. There was a show of hands and the motion was carried unanimously.

Proposal for the Accounts – Alan Miller, seconded by Roy Gallop. There was a show of hands and the motion was carried.

## **Rents**

The rents for 2012/2013 may have to increase, but no more than £60 large, £47 medium, £33 small.

## **Election of President**

Bob Franks the Chairman proposed Stan Morgan as President and John Parke seconded. There was a show of hands and the motion was passed unanimously.

## **AOB**

Steve Clampin stressed that there is no truth in the rumour that there is a road going through AM.

A further discussion took place about general security at AM.

There was a question raised about the possible WC expansion, would this make the site more vulnerable?

The Chairman replied that if we get the land then we would have to look into more fencing.

John Holland praised the work of the Chairman Bob Franks; he has an excellent relationship with BCC and does wonderful work for the Association.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and the meeting closed at 8.55pm.