

Hotwells & District Allotments Association Ltd

Registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014

Registered No: 6359R

Registered address: 2 Kennel Lodge Road, Bower Ashton, Bristol BS3 2JT
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Hotwells and District Allotment Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 2pm 27 February 2021

Because of Coronavirus restrictions, the meeting was held via Zoom (virtually), not in person. All relevant documents for consideration and comment were available online for several weeks before the AGM; members without internet or email were sent letters so that they could request hard copies if wished.

Present: David Thornley (President), Jenny Hendy (Chair), Bob Corfield (Vice Chair), John Buchanan (Treasurer), Chris Hanmer (Secretary), Peter Tucker (Membership), Paul Finch, Roy Davis, Phil Cass, Claire Greenfield, Steve Fay, Lesley Woodward, Robert Spicer, Ve Macrinnon, John Holland, Martin Howard, Janet Naylor, Iggy Fung, Pat Fung, Elizabeth Jackson, Dorothy Bowles, Anne Dockery, Nisus Larsen, Annabel Storrar, Robert Griffin, Mavis Whitfield, Julia Hammond, Craig Dunsford, Jennifer Bhambri-Lyte, Josh Nesfield, Aniket Sardana.

Apologies: Moira Buick, Sheena Price, John Mathias, John Nolan, John Lansdall, Mike Fox.

1 Welcome

Jenny Hendy opened the meeting and welcomed all attending. She explained how the zoom process would work and apologised in advance that this would unfortunately affect the more usual informal atmosphere and discussion.

2 Minutes of the AGM held on 4 January 2020 (available before the meeting)

Acceptance of the Minutes of the AGM held on 4 January 2020 was proposed by Peter Tucker, seconded by Phil Cass and approved by the meeting.

3 Matters arising from the 2020 AGM Minutes.

None.

4 Chair's report January 2020; questions submitted beforehand

- **Martin Eagles**, White City

"It's a great initiative to stop selling peat-based compost in the shop and to encourage tenants to do the same as noted in Sept Newsletter.

Furthermore, two allotment sites (KL1 and Alderman Moore) have seen bulk deliveries where tenants can help themselves having remitted the appropriate amount to the treasurer. The price here is £4 per wheelbarrow or a bargain figure of £25 for as much as you require on your plot for a year. It is envisaged other sites will have such deliveries once suitable areas have been designated

When would the bulk buy of PAS100 be available to all HwDAA allotment holders as mentioned above? At White City the access is very limited so to get enough delivered for the year will cost us £100-150 independently rather than the bargain rate of £25 and feel there must be some alternative for us? We have no transport and are desperate for suitable material but unfortunately we have been unable to get a vehicle small enough to get it to site even at this price.

If delivery areas are designated when would this be possible?

Would it be possible to get deliveries to larger sites if no designated area set up for smaller sites such as White City?

Plot holders could then make their own arrangements to bag up and transport or arrange with someone with correct size transport to deliver.

If not, does the supplier have smaller vehicles they could use to deliver?

We would be very happy to hear your plans and solutions regarding this as we would love to give our soil a boost with an environmentally friendly solution.”

The Chair acknowledged that access to and storage of the green compost all six sites varies. This is something the committee is considering and hopes we will be able to find a suitable solution for all concerned. In the meantime, John Lansdall (WC site rep) will discuss this with Martin.

- **Robert Spicer**, Kennel Lodge 2

In relation to site inspections, do the inspectors take into account that each plot holder has their own cultivation methods and this may involve deliberately leaving small areas of plots for biodiversity rather than relatively sterile but clear plots?

Paul Finch, Environmental Rep responded acknowledging that leaving a small area of a plot uncultivated, having a small pond or growing pollinator-friendly flowers all encourage biodiversity. However, having areas uncultivated has to be balanced against the requirement in our tenancy agreements to maintain our plots “in a good and proper state of cultivation and condition.” Paul is happy to discuss further with Robert.

- **Maria Clarke**, Bower Ashton

Are there plans to build a compost loo on BA plot?

Roy Davis, BA site rep reported that a potential location has been identified, a tenant with carpentry skill has agreed to build it and the Treasurer has confirmed that the necessary funds are available. Maria Clarke was not at the meeting so Jenny Hendy will respond to her.

Chair’s report – [click here..](#)

5 Treasurer’s Report and HwDAA accounts for year ending 30 September 2020

6 Submitted questions for the Treasurer

None. To view the Accounts – [click here..](#)

On behalf of the Association John Buchanan thanked Iggy Fung for again auditing the accounts.

7 Confirmation of the audit process for the 2019/2020 accounts

8 Vote to adopt the of the 2019/20accounts

The following resolutions for approval

Resolution 1 To approve the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2020. *The resolution was approved with no votes against. There were no abstentions.*

Resolution 2 To exempt the Association from the requirement to have a full audit for the years ended 30 September 2020 and 30 September 2021. *The resolution was approved with no votes against. There were no abstentions.*

Resolution 3 To re-appoint Iggy Fund as auditor for the year ended 30 September 2021. *The resolution was approved with no votes against. There were no abstentions.*

The Treasurer will submit the accounts to the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)

9 Notice of plot rents from 1st Oct 2021

Resolution 4 To approve rent levels for the year commencing 1 October 2021 unchanged from the current year. *The resolution was approved with no votes against. There were no abstentions.*

10 Changes in the HwDAA Rules – submitted questions

None

Resolution 5 To approved the amended Rules of the Association presented to the meeting and their filing with the Financial Conduct Authority. *The resolution was approved with no votes against. There were no abstentions.*

12 Proposal to roll over the current committee until January 2022

The Chair explained because the past 12 months had been extraordinary because of the pandemic, 'normal' service had not been possible. It was for this reason that the proposal to roll over the current committee was being put forward. In addition, the new Rules of the Association (see above) mean that from 2022, all committee members would be elected for three years (renewable) on a rolling system. Hopefully this will encourage both continuity and others to join in shaping the Association in years to come.

Resolution 6 To approve the re-election of David Thornley as President for a further year in accordance with the current Rules. *The resolution was approved with no votes against. There were no abstentions.*

Resolution 7 To approve the continuation in office for a further year of the Committee members as follows:

President	David Thornley
Chair	Jenny Hendy
Vice Chair	Bob Corfield
Treasurer	John Buchanan
Secretary	Chris Hanmer
Membership Secretary	Peter Tucker
Site Rep, Alderman Moore	Phil Cass
Site Rep, Bower Ashton	Roy David
Site Rep, KL1	Jenny Hendy
Site Rep, KL2	Terry Hoskins
Site Rep, Meadows	Chris Crook
Site Rep, White City	John Lansdall

The resolution was approved with no votes against. There were no abstentions.

13 AOB

- John Holland (White City) asked the Committee to consider creating a suitable memorial to Bob Franks, former Chairman and true champion of HwDAA who died in 2020. At a time when allotment gardening was certainly not as popular as it is today and many of the plots were unlet and overgrown Bob worked tirelessly for many years to reinvigorate and keep the Association going. Today it is thriving, thanks in great part to Bob's efforts and hard work. Bob also served on Bristol City Council's Allotment Committee and was a great supporter of allotments across the city. In view of this, it would be very appropriate to honour Bob's hard work - maybe a plaque in the allotment shop? Jenny Hendy agreed this would be a suitable memorial to Bob and will be arranged.
- John Holland also said he would like congratulate and thank those involved for making it possible - and so simple and straightforward - to purchase seed potatoes and now seeds. He knows this involves a lot of work behind the scenes which is much appreciated. David Thornley (WC) echoed these thanks to the whole shop team.
- Robert Spicer (KL2) asked whether a barrow load of green compost needed to be paid in advance or not. John Buchanan said that either option was acceptable.
- Craig Dunsford (KL1) thanked fellow allotment holders and the committee for enabling everyone to access and enjoy their plots and the benefits they bring, during a difficult year. He suggested that a celebration – perhaps a cream tea – would be a good way

The meeting closed at 2.45pm