

# **North Road Plotolders Group Minutes of Annual General Meeting 27 September 2015**

**Attendees** - The meeting was attended by 29 Plotolders (list attached)

## **1. Apologies for absence**

Cllr Steve Cousins; Carol Jones; Brenda Meadows; Terry Miles; Sandra White; Linda Wilkerson.

## **2. Minutes of the last Meeting on 21 September 2014**

The minutes had been displayed in the Site Shelter and were agreed to be a true and correct record.

## **3. Chairman's Report**

- Repairs had been carried out to extensive lengths of the track and we must now wait to see how they survive the winter. The track below the tarmacked section down from the road was deteriorating and Plotolders were again encouraged to keep their speed down.
- Mowers - the hover mower had not been popular and was traded in for a roller mower that made cutting up to edges easier.
- A BBQ was held in June as usual and was well attended.
- There is currently one vacant plot and no waiting list.
- Cllr Steve Cousins is our new Town Council representative.
- A plea was made for people who put material in the shredding bins to do their share of the shredding.

## **4. Treasurer's Report**

- Brenda Meadows could not be present and Brian Wilkerson said he was not happy about her absence. Peter Creasey said he felt she did a first class job, a opinion that was supported by the vast majority of Plotolders present.
- In response to questions, Jim Waight said that stock was now valued at purchase rather than selling price, suppressing the closing stock valuation compared with last year and some old stock had been written off. He also noted that the Lottery Fund line was not relevant.
- The accounts were accepted -  
Proposed - Margaret Miles  
Seconded - Brenda Dyer

## **5. Election of Committee and Officers**

Peter Holness did not wish to stand for re-election and Jim Waight thanked him for his contribution over the past few years. The remainder of the committee were happy to serve again and Trish Henderson and Alan Nadin had indicated a willingness to join the Committee.

The new Committee was elected en-bloc and comprises:

Chairman	Jim Waight
Secretary	Mike Jones
Treasurer	Brenda Meadows
Committee	Peter Creasey
	Brenda Dyer
	John Cook
	Trish Henderson
	Alan Nadir
	Liam Mulhall
	Linda Wood

## 6. Projects for coming year

Jim Waight invited suggestions from the Plotolders:

- **Composting Toilets**

Peter Holness suggested installing a composting toilet at an estimated cost of £2.5/3.0k for which some Council funds might be available. Brian Wilkerson, Peter Creasy and others were unhappy about the practicalities of emptying and maintaining the toilets. Plotolders were generally happy with the present arrangements.

**It was agreed not to proceed.**

- **Deer Proof Fence**

Brian Wilkerson said that deer entering the site from the railway were becoming a major problem and asked if some fencing could be provided. Others felt that this was not the only the entry route and suggested the use of deer repellent.

**It was agreed that the Committee should investigate the available options.**

- **Water Supply**

Chris Holyfield asked about provision of long hoses. After some discussion it was felt that more water butts would be more appropriate. It was also said that the isolating valve to the site needed to be replaced. Alison Madge noted that the work should be properly planned and if necessary spread over two years.

**It was agreed that improving the water supply to the plots should be the major project for 2016.**

## 7. Rent for 2016

After some discussion it was agreed that rents should be increased in line with HTC rents to £5.00 per pole from 1 January 2017 and notice would be given with the bills to be sent out in December. However, the Group will continue to phase in the increase and rents will remain at £3.50 per pole for next year.

Proposed - Brian Wilkerson

Seconded - Alison Madge

## 8. Seed Scheme

Alison Madge will run the seed scheme again this year. She will return to Thompson & Morgan after some poor experience with Kings.

Catalogues are available in the shelter. Discounts are 50% off seeds and 20% off potatoes and onions.

Jim Waight thanked Alison for all her hard work in running the scheme.

## 9. **Work Days**

We had tried to have a regular, monthly work day this year, but the arrangement had not functioned well. Jim Waight said we would return to ad-hoc work days from now on - next Work Day 18 October.

## 10. **Other Business**

- Brian Wilkerson asked about responsibility for rat control. Jim Waight said that the Town Council had a contractor who was supposed to be proactive, but appeared to be very reactive. In addition Linda and Erle Wood had undertaken rat control training and will start to install bait boxes.
- Len Davis proposed a vote of thanks for their hard work during the past year. This was agreed by the Plotolders present.
- Finally Jim Waight announced that this would be his last year as Chairman because he felt the Committee needed a change of leadership.

Mike Jones  
Secretary  
1 October 2015