**Jubilee Allotment Association**

**AGM Minutes**

**Date: 22nd February 2017**

**7:30pm at The Mitre, Knaresborough**

**Present:**

(Chair) Richard Fryer, (Treasurer) Chas Pickford, (Secretary) Vicky Newell,

(Committee Members) Jane Fryer, Emma Pickford, Sarah Smith, Jamie Hetherington and Henry Norris.

(Members) Mick Morby, Chic Thorburn, Adrian Mosley, Peter Robertson, John Garraway, Alison Garraway, Sarah Bosomworth, Rosie Crawford, Simon Crawford, Kevin Tubby, Irene Taylor, Alan Gilbert, Bobby Brodigan, Barbara Brodigan, Racheal Simpson, Douglas Notman and Margaret Dixon.

**Opening:**

The chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm, Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked plot holders for attending. Richard hoped that all plot holders had a good harvest last year.

**1. Apologies**

John Freestone, Wendy Sanderson, Carol Shaw, Derick and Tina Gwynn.

**2. Minutes of the AGM 17h February 2016**

These have been posted on our website [www.jubileeallotments.co.uk](http://www.jubileeallotments.co.uk/). The minutes were proposed as being a true representation of the meeting by Jane Fryer and seconded by Sarah Smith.

**3. Chairman’s Report**

Richard encouraged plot holder to get involved with the allotments. He explained that we need new ideas and fresh blood. The committee represents all plot holders, he encouraged people to become more involved and join the committee.

Richard has negotiated with the Council a new 5-year lease. He advised that all rents remain the same for this coming year. The access road has been re-surfaced, which has improved access considerably to the allotments.

New water butts have been installed at both ends of the site. However there have been several issues of abuse. A new lawn mower has been purchased to enable the grass to be cut between plots on the smaller paths on the allotments.

The compost toilet has had to be emptied as it was full of water from heavy rains during the winter, The Jubilee Allotment Association has a healthy bank balance due to the various events that have been held throughout the year.

Richard thanked the current committee for all their hard work throughout the year.

**4. Treasurer’s Report**

Chas handed out copies of the Jubilee Allotments Association’s annual statement. (See attached). Chas explained that we have a had a good year and have a healthy bank balance due to several events that have been held to increase profits.

Chas explained that the compost toilet was not working correctly so had to be emptied. One of the plot holders mentioned that a lot of non-plot holders tend to use the toilet. It was suggested to fix a lock to the toilet but due to the high turnover of plots this was not thought to be a practical idea. Richard mentioned that some allotments have fixed open and closing times, but that we did not want to go down that path and restrict entry. A plot holder suggested signage to advise that the allotments were private but we already have a sign to that effect. Another suggestion was a combination lock on the gate but we already have an issue with many plot holders leaving the gate open so this wouldn’t work well in practice. Richard also explained that this was the first year we had to have this toilet emptied as it has been operational for 5 years, so the overall cost is very small in comparison to the years of use.

Chas confirmed that all rates have been frozen for this year and that payment is required by 1/04/17. Chas stressed the need to pay rents on time. Chas is also going to be at Blind Jacks on 15/03/17 to take plot payments if anyone wants to pay that evening from 7.30pm. Chas also explained how much we must pay in rent to the Council, various insurances and NSALG membership. Therefore, it is crucial that rents are paid on time.

Chas mentioned that the cost of fixing the water station was almost as much as having the toilet emptied. Chas explained how some plot holders have broken the water station to gain access to the water. We are all volunteers and our funds that we raise have had to be used on fixing the water stations. These stations have had to be fixed on numerous occasions. The ballcock has been broken twice and pipework has been dismantled. The actions of a few are spoiling it for the rest of us. The water stations are a backup supply not the main supply of water on the allotments. Investigations have been made into gaining mains water supply and the bill would run into thousands. It was suggested by a plot holder to ask the lottery fund for a grant for water. If a plot holders would like to volunteer to apply for a grant for water, we would love to hear from them. It would cost £1,700 to get Yorkshire Water to come and do a survey which is all our current profits gone. Richard explained that rents would increase as water rates would have to be added to our running costs. We are already one of the most expensive allotments in the area. Doug (past Chairman) explained that there is not enough water pressure to enable us to have a running water supply to the site.

**5. Changes to the Rules**

Richard advised that there are no changes to our current rules.

**6. Motions**

Richard advised that no motions had been received by any plot holder for discussion.

**7. Sub-Committee Reports:**

**7.1 Events sub-Committee**

Sarah Smith who is our Events Co-ordinator explained that this year she had tried to get as many plot holders involved as possible. She wanted to foster a sense of community. Events were well attended in 2016 and she had displayed many photographs around the room for the AGM, of the various events that have been held.

Sarah talked about the various events that have been held:

Seed swap held in May. Next year she is hoping to make the Kings seed orders more of an event as JAA gets 20% of all profits made.

Summer BBQ held on10th July. Sarah added Fete games this year and a “splat the rat” game was made for the event. Sarah has set the date for the next BBQ - *9 July.*

Largest vegetable competition on 9th October with an Allotment Spotters Quiz which was well attended.

30th October – Bonfire night with guy making, sparklers, Jacket potatoes. “Little” Richard won the pumpkin carving competition. This event was well attended and we also welcomed residents from the house at the top of Bilton Lane which is run by Harrogate Skills for Living.

Sarah thanked everyone who helped at these events. She also thanked those who attended these events with their families.

Sarah also announced plans to hold a JAA Autumn Show where we will be showcasing our allotments, having displays and giving a prize to the best plot and largest vegetable. *More details to follow*. To be held on 8 October 2017. Sarah asked plot holders to keep looking on Facebook and read the regular newsletters that are emailed out.

Sarah encouraged plot holders to get involved and help at events. She would also welcome any ideas for events that we haven’t done yet. Maybe a quiz night held at a local pub?

**7.2 Site Inspections**

Richard explained that we have an agreement with the Council that we will adhere to the allotment rules. Trees and hedges need to be kept under control. Richard encouraged all plot holders to read the rules and adhere to them. We have had instances of dogs left to wander around the site and digging holes on other plots. This is a breach of our rules. Dogs must be kept under control.

**7.3 Maintenance sub-Committee**

Jamie Hetherington who is our Maintenance Co-ordinator thanked all plot holders who have helped at the maintenance days. This year’s Maintenance dates are:

**Sunday 23 April**

**Sunday 21 May**

**Sunday 25 June**

**Sunday 30 July**

**Sunday 24 September**

**Sunday 29 October**

Jamie encouraged plot holders to attend at least one of these dates. Tea/Coffee and cake or soup is always provided as means of encouragement.

Jamie reported that we had no major maintenance projects this year. Water station repair has been the main issue. There are 25 litre water containers next to the water stations and are free to anyone who would like them. This year we have mainly been cutting the grass, repairing fences, removing weeds. The water stations have been switched off for the winter and will be switched on at the end of March.

Jamie advised that we have spare tools if plot holders want to borrow them. There are also lawn mowers and strimmers should you wish to borrow them. Please email the committee at committee@jubileeallotments.co.uk and we will arrange a time to meet you to show you how to use the equipment. We just ask for a contribution to the petrol if you are going to use them.

One plot holder mentioned that they would like to help during the week as they work weekends. Jamie said this is something we need to consider as most committee members work full-time during the week.

**8. Chairman’s award**

Richard explained that he has introduced a new Chairman’s award to acknowledge any plot holder who has done something exceptional for the allotments.

This year Richard acknowledged all the hard work and commitment from Simon and Rosie Crawford who attended all Maintenance Days, even though they are not on the committee. Simon has also taken it upon himself to regularly cut the grass paths around the allotments. Simon and Rosie from plots 13 ABC were given the Chairman’s award plaque.

**9. Election of Committee Members**

Richard mentioned that members standing down this year were: Vicky Newell as Secretary, himself as Chairman, Wendy Sanderson as Vice Chairman, Jamie Hetherington as Maintenance Co-ordinator.

Vicky will be still be responsible for letting all plots and Richard would be staying on the committee. Richard thanked Vicky for all her hard work as Secretary over the past few years.

**Existing Committee Members**

Richard Fryer (Chairman), Wendy Sanderson (Deputy Chair) Chas Pickford (Treasurer), Vicky Newell (Secretary), Henry Norris, Jane Fryer, Emma Pickford, Sarah Smith, Jamie Hetherington, John Freestone.

**Newly Elected Committee Members**

Rosie Crawford, Simon Crawford and Fran Naylor.

Members voted unanimously for the above committee members to serve until the next AGM. Richard advised that we still need help with the sub committees:

**Events sub-committee**

Existing members: Sarah Smith, Chas Pickford, Emma Pickford and Vicky Newell

**Grants Sub-Committee**

Existing members: None. Please volunteer.

**Maintenance Sub-Committee**

Existing members: Henry Norris, Chas Pickford and Emma Pickford

**Website Committee**

Existing members: John Freestone but looking to hand over the reins. Please volunteer.

Anyone interested in joining any of the above sub-committees should email the committee: committee@jubileeallotments.co.uk

**AOB**

Simon Crawford mentioned that he has spent many hours removing dog poo and plastic bottles from Bilton Road. This took a total of 8 bin liners. He asked if the committee could write to the Council to ask for dog bins to be installed along the road. Richard mentioned that he has a meeting with the Council and will pass it on to the next Chairman to put forward a plan.

**10. Closing Comments**

Richard thanked everyone for attending the meeting and the committee for all their hard work during the year.

**Date and Place of AGM:**

2018 AGM date, venue and time to be agreed

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Existing Committee and new members met straight after the AGM**

**Present:** Jane Fryer, Richard Fryer, Vicky Newell, Chas Pickford, Emma Pickford, Henry Norris, Sarah Smith, Rosie and Simon Crawford. (Fran Naylor not present).

**Election of Officers**

**Chair:** Henry Norris was proposed by Sarah Smith and seconded by Chas Pickford. Henry accepted the position.

**Vice Chair (and be liaison with Council):** Richard Fryer was proposed by Sarah Smith and seconded by Henry Norris. Richard accepted the position

**Treasurer:** Chas Pickford remains in position

**Secretary:** Rosie Crawford was proposed by Henry Norris and seconded by Emma Pickford. Rosie accepted the position.

**Events**: Sarah Smith remains in position.

**Maintenance:** Simon Crawford was proposed by Henry Norris and seconded by Chas Pickford. Simon Crawford accepted the position.

**Website:** John Freestone remains in position unless a replacement can be found.

Next Committee Meetings:

**Tuesday 21st March at 7:30pm.**

**Venue: Blind Jacks, Knaresborough**

**Tuesday 18th April at 7:30pm.**

**Venue: Blind Jacks, Knaresborough**

**Tuesday 23rd May at 7:30pm.**

**Venue: Blind Jacks, Knaresborough**

12 March 2017

Circulation: All members.