

Annual General Meeting of the east Ward Allotment Association
April 27th 2006 at the Allotment Shop

1. **Minutes for the AGM in 2005** were approved, but Andy Henson wanted it minuted that he did not propose the shop opening every Sunday!
2. **Matters arising:** none.
3. **Nomination of New Trustees:** the three trustees were approved: Pat Mansfield (seconded by Jane Nimmo-Smith); Stewart Young (by Alan Hart) and Jean Conner (by Andy Henson).

Jane Millar explained the need for trustees to be the signatories of the new lease being negotiated with the City Council, and the reasons for choosing them: they are all long-standing members of the EWAA. Stewart Young added that it was not clear what their obligations were. Andy Henson explained that the EWAA is not a legal entity and the Trustees act as the legal representatives of the EWAA. Stewart Y added that in the past the Trustees had not been particularly active in their role, but now they would be.

4. **Vice-Presidents' Report:** this was given by Jane Millar and David Tucker.

There has been successful recruitment of new members to the EWAA: 25 have left but 29 joined and very few plots remain unlet. At the beginning of March 123 were let out and 120 newsletters were sent out in March.

Thanks were offered to Helen Costello for her work in ordering supplies for the shop and for broadening the range on offer. A request board is now available and the stock sold by the shop is considerably cheaper than any outlets nearby.

Thanks were also offered to Alan Hart for clearing out the toolshed and keeping the machines running.

A survey of the allotment land was carried out by the Council as part of the project to provide improvements for the various allotments around the city. The fencing is the first part of this project in the case of the EWAA.

A new gate will come into being at the Boundary Brook entrance as a result of the new flats being built there.

Plot 7 has finally been cleared of the debris after 11 months!

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Andy Henson gave this:

Shop turnover is down by £60 even though it has been open every Sunday. More stock has been purchased for the shop but this has not brought in more money.

Last year £600 was spent purchasing stock but this has been bought partly in one and partly in another financial year. Also though more was spent on stock this did not show up in the stocktake. A truer figure might be calculated by moving the shop year end. March is a busy time for buying stock and this makes the figures confusing so it might be more sensible to move the end of the financial year to the end of August.

Rent income shows up nicely in this year's accounts and this will generate enough to cover the increased rent to the Council. Provision for paying the backdated rent increase has not been made in the financial summary. This would have made the loss made even greater. Equipment hire generated £100, but about £200 was spent on the equipment itself in the last year. There might be a case for increasing the rental for the equipment.

Key deposits are treated as part of rental income but there could be problems if people brought keys back in large numbers. The return of key deposits should be recorded in the accounts separately.

The grant awarded by the Council for fencing last year was never paid over, but now a new proposal is in hand from the Council.

No change has been made to the rate of depreciation used in previous years.

On the subject of honoraria, since it is a taxable benefit, and this makes the EWAA liable for sorting out PAYE, Andy H proposed that these payments should stop. This proposal was approved by a majority at the meeting.

There was £7,500 in reserve but this is in the form of stock.

There was £4,000 in the deposit account and a small amount in the current account.

The shop helps to subsidise the rent but also acts as a bonus to the allotment holders and at a good price.

There was some discussion about whether stock had been disappearing, which might account for the loss made by the shop.

Andy H said the problem might be with the stocktake since he might have put a different value on items than in previous years, and with the dates when invoices were received and when cheques sent out in payment. Also there might have been occasions when shop workers

forgot to enter takings in the book. In fact, there had been several occasions when there was more cash at the end of a day than the records suggested!

Stewart Y said that the keys were not really an issue since they were handed out to new plot-holders.

1. **Proposal to date changes** (this item was moved up the agenda): Various arguments were made in favour of the proposal to move the end of the financial year to the end of August and the AGM to the last Thursday of September. The officers would have time to do the stocktake and the figures would be more accurate since more of the stock would have been sold. Stewart Y said the Treasurer would be busy collecting rents in September, but Andy H said this could be the last task of the current Treasurer. Stewart added that the constitution would need to be changed. The proposal was approved and the constitution will be changed so that the AGM should be on the last Thursday of September.
2. **Plot Rent:** it was proposed this should stay the same by Andy H. Stewart Y asked whether it could be reduced, but Andy H said that there was no good argument for putting it down since the cost of utilities had gone up so much. The water use is metered.
13. **Proposal to amend the EWAA rules on the use of strimmers:** Jean Conner registered a complaint from the residents of Cricket Road about the persistent noise of strimmers. There followed a lively discussion which finally resulted in 13 votes for the following proposal for the use of strimmers only: that they could be used on the allotments 9-1230 every day including the weekend. This defeated the other proposal of 9-12 and 3-5 on weekdays and 9-12 at weekends which received 9 votes.
3. **Hourly rate for equipment hire:** the decision was made after discussion to charge £3.00 an hour for the strimmer and £4.00 an hour for everything else. This includes fuel.
6. **Election of Officers for 2006 (until the AGM in September):** no-one offered themselves for nomination for the office of President, so it was suggested that there should be two Vice-Presidents as before. On this basis –
Stewart Young was nominated by Pat Mansfield, seconded by Alan Hart and elected as Vice-President.

Derek Bloomfield was nominated by Andy Henson, seconded by Cari Morningstar and elected as the other Vice-President.

Valerie Wardlaw was nominated by Andy Henson, seconded by Pat Mansfield and elected as Secretary. (Jane N-S will continue to deal with the Council concerning the lease).

Cari Morningstar was nominated by Jane N-S, seconded by Helen Costello and elected as Membership Secretary.

Andy Henson will remain as Treasurer, nominated by Jane Millar and seconded by David Tucker.

Helen Costello will remain as Shop Officer.

7. **Election of Committee for 2006-7:** the following were elected as members of the Committee:

Chris Rumble(available for shop duty)

Alan Hart(available for shop duty)

Pat Mansfield(available for shop duty)

Jane Nimmo-Smith (available for shop duty)

David Tucker (Newsletter and website; available for shop duty)

John Pannell (not shop duty)

Jamie Balfour (not shop duty)

Jane Millar (available for shop duty)

Cindy Warwick (available for shop duty)

Mandy Howes (volunteered for loo duty)

8. **Shop duty:** the decision was made that the shop will not be open in future during August. It will be open as before the remaining months. The new rota will run to the end of September.
4. **Work Parties:** these will improve the path that runs parallel to Cricket Road and cut back the brambles along the cycle track.
1. **AOB:** none
2. **Date of next AGM:** September 28th 2006 at 7.30 at the Shop.

