

Minutes for the Annual General Meeting of the East Ward Allotment Association at the Allotment Shop on April 28th 2005.

Present: Jane Nimmo-Smith, Cindy Warwick, Andy Henson, Leigh Perrott, Pat Mansfield, Alan Hart, Jane Millar, Derek Bloomfield, Sharon Tucker, Edward Pope, D Jack, Helen Costello, Mike McNaboe, David Tucker, Claire Stentiford, Benjamin Diss, Peter Byfield, George Monbiot, Stewart Young, Chris Rumble.

Minutes: the minutes from the last AGM were approved.

Chairman's report: Andy H gave a report highlighting the changes within the Committee, to the effect that Stewart Young is no longer the President. Andy H and David T have shared the vice-chair but have not been in a position to do as much as Stewart had done. The lease with the City Council still has not been finalised, nor has the arrangement with the Oxford urban Wildlife Group been finalised. **Pat M & Jane M** will produce a list of points to be agreed for the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: the shop profit has been helping to subsidise the rent. The allotment rents were increased but this does not show on the accounts. The Treasurer, Claire Stentiford, submitted a copy of the accounts for the year. Profound thanks were given to Claire for her hard work since 1999.

Election of Officers for 2005-6:

Secretary: Jane Nimmo-Smith will continue in post; nominated by Claire S and seconded by David T.

Treasurer: Andy Henson was elected to the post; nominated by Jane M and seconded by Alan Hart.

Vice-Presidents: Jane Millar was elected; nominated by David Tucker and seconded by Claire S. David Tucker will continue in post; nominated by Jane Nimmo-Smith and seconded by Jane M.

Shop Officer: Mike MacNaboe was elected to post, nominated by Jane M and seconded by Andy H.

Election of Committee for 2005-6:

7 members are needed. Anjela and Christian Whitehead are having a sabbatical.

Members will be:

Pat Mansfield
John Pannell
Derek Bloomfield
Chris Rumble
Stewart Young
Alan Hart

Helen Costello

Shop duty: Edward Pope and Cindy Warwick will be on the rota for shop duty.

Duty Rota: after some discussion Andy H proposed that the shop should be open every Sunday including August. Stewart Y suggested that he could be a fifth officer 'without portfolio' to make this a more workable proposition. This was approved by the meeting. **Jane N-S** will draw up and circulate a rota for the coming year. Derek B suggested that he could be 'on call' during the week, when he has a day off, providing his phone number and work rota. This proposal was accepted.

Work Parties: Stewart Y proposed a work party to move the unwanted shed to Jean Tillet's garden. This will happen in due course. It was decided to organise a work party and a skip for rubbish collecting on May 15th, 10-12. **Jane M** will order the skip and **Jane N-S** will organise the work party. There was a good deal of discussion about the use of old carpets on plots for keeping down weeds. George m voiced concerns about chemicals in them. There was a general feeling the carpets should be discouraged in future. This will be made known in the next newsletter, suggesting that wood chippings would be a better alternative. These will be made available beside the shop for people to use on their plots.

Plot Rents: it was decided to leave rents unchanged, though some favoured a rise. Rents will be increased next year, however, in line with the increased rent due to the City Council which will come into effect when the new lease has been signed.

Any Other Business:

Mike M and others made a further recommendation that plot-holders should be made aware of problems associated with carpets eg flame retardants.

Two foxes were found dead, possibly poisoned, earlier in the year. Episodes such as this should be reported to the police who have a Wildlife Officer to investigate this type of episode.

George M decided to withdraw his request about keeping bees on his allotment.

Horse manure – **David T** is organising this.

Date for the next Annual General Meeting: April 27th 2006

