

**WELLESBOURNE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22
FEBRUARY 2017 AT 7.45PM IN WELLESBOURNE VILLAGE HALL**

1. Welcome

Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all present with a special welcome to new members.

2. Apologies for Absence

Paula Kerr	Karen Jukes	Rebecca Coates
Marlene Lilley	Janet Parker	Ross Podbury
Ken Wheal	Maureen Stevens	Bill Varney
David Ivory	Tina Lamb	Catherine Brayshaw
Steve England	Hazel Haywood	Peter Maxwell

3. Minutes of previous meeting held on Wednesday 24 February 2016

Copies circulated

4. Matters arising from those minutes

N/A - minutes passed

5. Committee activity

Diary sheet circulated. Copy to be attached to minutes.

6. Officer's Reports

a) Treasurer – Ken Manning

2 sets of accounts were distributed with AGM information

£900 surplus from the open day after donations to local and national charities and organisations

Wellesbourne Market had paid £1,000 sponsorship for the event

Thanks given to the committee, planning group and members of the association for all help received before, during and after the Open Day

Funds raised at the Autumn Show were disappointing due to the very few donations of produce

Grant received from PC has been spent on renewing boundary fencing (see item 9)

Honorarium payment for WAA secretary of £20 approved by members in attendance

b) Lettings Secretary – Tracey Caines

Gave explanation of lettings role – responsible for re-letting vacant plots / taking part in site inspections / listening and helping with plot holder issues

All plots are now taken with 5 on the waitlist

Article to be written for WWN encouraging locals to join the wait list

Advised all plot holders to speak to Committee members if they have any queries or problems relating to the site or their individual plots

7. 2016 Open Day

The Open day was very successful, a wonderful day which went well. Spreading the stall along the length of the site ensured visitors saw the whole site. The organisation is getting slicker. Thanks given to all involved and to the potholders that all went and made extra effort to ensure the site looked at its best.

A vote was taken agreeing for an Open day to take place in 2018

8. Site clean-up

Although costly, it was agreed that the provision of two skips enabled a lot of historical rubbish to be removed from the site. It is hoped that plot holders will now remove their rubbish regularly and not allow it to build up to unmanageable amounts.

The far border of the site (southern end) made need some attention. It was suggested that hawthorn/blackthorn seedlings are planted along the new boundary fencing

9. New boundary fencing

An earlier application to the Parish Council for a grant was success. The funds were used to purchase enough post and wire to re-establish the field boundaries to the site.

Matt Pratt very kindly undertook the whole task which has saved the WAA a considerable amount of money. A thank you payment has been made to Matt by the committee as we are all extremely grateful for his hard work and contribution to the site.

10. Site Security

Earlier this year intruders were spotted entering the site late one evening. Thanks to a neighbour the police were alerted. Although a few sheds had been damaged the intruders were prevented from causing too much harm.

It has been brought to our attention that on several occasions the gate is being left open overnight. If you are the last to leave please ensure the gate is closed and locked – as instructed by the notice at the gate.

Leaving the gateway open at night makes us very vulnerable to fly tippers as well as the possibility of travellers taking up residence onsite - both of which would be a lengthy and costly situation for the WAA to be in as well as troublesome for all members.

Gate keys are available for all members for a deposit of £5. If you do not have a key please contact any member of the committee and we can arrange to meet you onsite and get you a key.

Question – Is CCTV still in use at the site?

Reply – Not recently due to the costly and time consuming method needed to readjust settings and batteries. Motion cameras remain available if required for surveillance. However, the signs will be reinstated on-site stating that the site is CCTV monitored.

11. Use of black fabric/covers to plots as permanent features

A discussion took place about the considerable amount of black fabric that seems to be permanently in use on some plots.

It was acknowledged that some areas are being covered to prevent weed growth and on a rotational basis during different growing seasons.

The main concern is that plots are being rented, but, not cultivated. The committee has to ensure that plots are cultivated as part of the WAA agreement with the Landowners.

12. Summer Social Event 2017

A vote was taken and agreed to hold a Summer Social event on-site. We do have the use of a marquee – watch this space for dates and further details

13. Big Dreams, Small Spaces BBC program

It was uncertain at the time of the meeting if the footage shoot during the Open day was going to be featured. We can now confirm that the program aired on BBC on Friday 24 February and will be available on the BBC iPlayer until 28 March 2017

14. Repairs to site entrance/roadway

The site entrance driveway is still in a poor condition which will only get worse. Drivers' exceeding the 5mph speed limit is not helping the situation.

A sensible quotation for repairs is required as we may be looking at around £3,000 Neil Prenton-Jones, who has experience in this field, has kindly offered to make enquiries for costs and the work involved.

The general feel was that the WAA should not undertake the work themselves.

A show of hands showed that the majority acknowledged that the driveway is a problem and needs to be sorted. A minority felt it was a waste of money.

The committee will collate 3 quotes and then ask all members for a final decision.

15. **2016 'Best kept Allotment'** presentation of trophy by Ron Knight to Joy and Chris Cole for plots 18A and 19A. The runner-up was Sharon Underhill for plot 47AB

16. **2016 'Best Newcomer'** presentation of trophy by Simon Oram to joint winners Karen Jukes for 9B and Peter George for 56A. Karen was unable to attend, so, Peter has the trophy for six months then will arrange to pass on to Karen. Peter took the opportunity to thank all plot holders for making him welcome and the committee for their hard work – this was very much appreciated!

17. 2017 Best Kept Allotment and Best Newcomer – vote to continue

Although the number of entries was disappointing the judging method and costs have to be factored in as well as the amount of time needed to judge each plot. The judge from this year did comment that he was very impressed with the condition of the site and that it was one of the best he had visited.

A vote was taken with the majority agreeing that some sort of competition should take place.

Comments from the floor include:

- up the prize money
- people should choose to enter

- the original purpose was to improve overall site and plots therefore all should be entered
- more variety of categories – would require more complex judging
- judging guidelines should be published in advance (these were available on the WAA website)
- should we follow strict RHS guidelines
- the committee or sub-committee should choose the plots to be entered – should committee members therefore be excluded?
- should plot holders be the judges and the winners based on the most votes
- are the Best Newcomer plots judged to RHS guidelines

The committee will take all these comments on board and will announce details when agreed.

18. Election of 2017 Officers

Chris Wood explained he was stepping down as Chairman and gave thanks to Marion Allerton, who has also stepped down from the committee, for her help whilst on the committee.

Chairman – Ian Hope	proposed, seconded and unanimous show of hands
Treasurer – Ken Manning) no opposers
Secretary – Anne-Marie Ortu) all agreed by
Lettings Officer – Tracey Caines) show of hands
Committee Members x 5	1. Di Major “
	2. Simon Oram “
	3. Wendy Nekar “
	4. Jessica Pinson “
	5. Andy Palin new committee member

Ian Hope introduced himself to the attendees and is looking forward to joining the committee and meeting more plot holders in the future.

Ken Manning thanked Chris Wood for being Chairman during the last year and wished him well in the future.

19. Any other business

None

20. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 21 February 2018

Close of meeting

Raffle £52 was raised from the raffle with an additional £8.94 from the tea/coffee and cake sales