

Hereford Allotment & Leisure Gardeners

Annual General Meeting

10.03.2020

President: John Rosser (JR)
Chairperson: Nigel Davies (ND)
Treasurer: Val Simms (VS)
Secretary: Tasha Bennett (TB)
Committee Member: Brian Brookes (BB)

Apologies: Mr D Mumford (Lettings Secretary), Mrs S Rudd (Ash Avenue), Mrs H Lewis (Drybridge), Mrs S Baugh (Holmer), Mr P Cannings (Corporation), Mr W Laws (Rockfield), Mrs J Griffiths (Holmer), Mr S Wood (Holmer)

Previous minutes: Agreed with no matters arising

President Opening Address (JR):

I thank you all for attending tonight and welcome you to the 2020 Annual General Meeting, HALGS has been a Friendly Society since January 1994 and your Committee recommend that it would benefit the organisation to transfer to a Charity more on this change later.

On your behalf, I thank the Site Representatives and the Committee members and I take the opportunity to give a special thanks to the Chairman (Nigel Davies) for managing the Committee and for the work he has carried out on other sites, Treasurer (Val Simms) who alongside her role as Treasurer has spent an enormous amount of time on transferring HALGS from a Friendly Society to Charity status, the Secretary (Tasha Bennett) for all the time and detail to her role and Derek Mumford who has been our Lettings Secretary, not only for being such a dedicated and competent Lettings Secretary but for all the other work he has carried out.

The Committee meetings have been well attended and all Site Representatives have carried out their role with commitment and have given their time not only for meetings but as Site Representatives.

Before I hand over to the Chairman I have a request to make to all members. Please offer your help to your Site Representative, keep your plots and site tidy, take part in the plot competition and for those who have locked sites, please lock the gate.

Hereford Allotment & Leisure Gardeners

Chairperson (ND):

ND made reference to break in at Holmer and reminded people that items are left at their own risk. ND advised of the flooding issues on sites particularly Eign which has been devastating. ND advised that DM is resigning as Lettings Secretary and thanked him for all his hard work. ND said it would be nice for plot holders to communicate with the committee not necessarily when things go wrong but also any suggestions. ND thanked the Committee members and Site Representatives for doing a great job and giving their time up voluntarily to support HALGS alongside other commitments they may have.

Lettings Secretary (DM):

(Report read at meeting in DM's absence)

Above average amount of plots changed hands in 2019, there was a larger than normal number of plots that became available at the end of the year. A few plots terminated because they had not been maintained and had received two letters of concern each.

Over the year some letters of concern were sent out, most plot holders responded and brought the plots back to the standard expected. Some problems with plot holders storing wood and other items on the plots, they were contacted and these items have now been removed.

At present, there is a steady request for plots with only one site having vacant plots, the other sites each have a waiting list. This is the same as the last couple of years, most plots being let as soon as they become available.

Prospective plot holders are being offered alternative sites to their first choice with the prospect of moving when a plot becomes available which some accept.

I would like to thank the site reps for their help throughout the year, some carrying out the responsibility along with working full time.

Special thanks to John Rosser for helping to fill skips with unwanted items.

I wish Alan who is taking over as Lettings Secretary all the best for the future and would like to say I have enjoyed the last few years spent as Lettings Secretary.

David Simms thanked DM for all he had done as Lettings Secretary on behalf of all members.

Hereford Allotment & Leisure Gardeners

Secretary (TB):

Thank you to all those who have volunteered their time to help run HALGS not only committee members and site reps but also plot holders who give up their time to help clear plots, update the website, run training sessions. Please could plot holders advise as soon as they can of any changes in addresses, email addresses or phone numbers it helps us to keep our records as up to date as possible and ensures you receive relevant communications. If anyone has any information to go on the website then please forward to me. I wish you all a happy and successful season.

Treasurer (VS):

The main change that I have made this year is to send out the rent requests at the start of the year (1st January). Many members did wonder where the rent request was, but I will give you notice that the same thing will happen for next year. The only outstanding payments are from new plot holders.

I have also had several meetings with the Town Clerk, to be the main point of contact from HALGS. This has been referencing maintenance work on the different sites and to move forward on the lease. The Council has instructed a solicitor to confirm ownership of the allotment sites, prior to drawing up the lease.

Balance sheet:

Fixed assets: these are explained under the notes section and I have continued with the previous calculations for depreciation and this shows the present value of the assets to be £3,136

Current assets: £34,790 (stock, bank, cash)

Current liabilities: £400 (auditor) and £33 (rents paid in advance)

Income total: £32,111 includes rents, council grant and £9,562 from Welsh Water for the Rockfield claim. I would like to thank John Rosser for all his many hours of work in pursuing this matter and assisting the plot holders with their claims. This has been paid out.

Expenses total: £21,150

This does appear to be high, but does include the payment of the Rockfield claim, we have also written off the depreciation of the fixed assets of equipment and property. Water bills are up and I would ask all allotment holders to make as much use of collecting water off sheds, etc as possible.

Registered Address: The Pavillion, Castle Green, Hereford HR1 2NW
Registered as an Industrial and Provident Society no. 27931R

Hereford Allotment & Leisure Gardeners

Surplus of £10,961 will be held in the account to ensure we have the funds for all maintenance and any cost incurred with taking on the lease from the council.

Any questions? There were no questions.

I ask for the meeting to accept and approve the accounts?

Accounts proposed by Andrew Colby

Accounts seconded by John Rosser

All agreed.

Appointment of auditors

I recommend we appoint Bonelle and Co to audit the accounts in 2020

Agreed.

Election of officers:

Treasurer: Val Simms

Proposed: David Fletcher

Seconded: Chris Yapp

Motions:

To cease Hereford Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Soc. Ltd as of 1st January 2020 and establish as Charitable Incorporated Organisation, known as Hereford Allotments & Leisure Gardeners

Proposed by Nigel Davies and Seconded by Val Simms

Q: Andrew Colby asked a question about the constitution with moving to a Charity. VS advised that a draft constitution was issued at 2019 AGM and it has been accepted.

Q: John Rosser asked a question around the number of trustees, VS advised at present we have four trustees.

Q: Andrew Colby asked how it would work with the accounts. VS advised would like to do the accounts from January 2020 under Charity as we have the Charity number. This would prevent needing to do the first three months of the year under Society and then the rest under Charity.

This motion was carried by all. 32 members attended the meeting.

Hereford Allotment & Leisure Gardeners

ND gave a summary:

Gave thanks to Chris Yapp from Eign for the community spirit at Eign in the clear up following the devastation caused by the flooding. A real example of people pulling together.

ND also gave praise to the people at Holmer for their resilience and bouncing back after the big break in where many lost a lot of equipment.

ND asked if any questions and one plot holder asked you said if we have any suggestions to get in contact but who do we get in contact with. ND advised that all contact should be with their site rep in first instance and all site reps can be contacted by phone and email.

END OF AGM