

ALSAGER GARDENS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 14 FEBRUARY 2017

PRESENT

Chairman – Adrian Ford

David Pitt (Treasurer) David Spall (Trading Secretary) Keith Biggs (Secretary)
and other AGA members

1.APOLOGIES Derek Hough (President) Hilary Robinson (Membership Secretary)

2.MINUTES of the meeting held in February 2016 were agreed as a true record

3.MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that Peter Dobson was previously elected as Vice Chairman.

Confirmation was given that the insurance of the Toilets is AGA's responsibility and that they are now covered by AGA insurance

4. TREASURER'S REPORT - David Pitt

David reported that sales are down this year by £629, a loss was made against fertiliser/compost and seeds/plants, but this is not a worry.

The accounts have been completed to year end and include the letter from the Auditors indicating that there will be no charge this year due to an error made in the previous year. Trading Profit has increased because of plant sales at the Open days and at the annual show.

Receipts

Subs are slightly down (by 6 members)

The following have Increased:

Rents by 7% this year; Affiliation fees; Depreciation; Insurance (due to Trading Hut and Toilets); cash in hand; debtors due to seed orders not yet paid for

We made a loss of £401 on the Annual Show

Overall A healthy state with a profit of £578 (exc depreciation). Slight worry is sales.

It was confirmed that depreciation related to buildings ie Trading Hut , Toilets, Fence the funding of which are usually provided by grants or the annual maintenance budget from the Town Council.

5. TRADING SECRETARY'S REPORT – David Spall

David Spall thanked everyone for getting their seed and potato orders in early which has enabled us to receive the maximum discount. The relationship with our current supplier is very good and they go out of their way to help us.

The cost of fertiliser has decreased, and Trading is similar to last year.

All members were asked to consider news or copy for the quarterly News Letters. Please send any copy to DS at any time of the year.

David thanked everyone who has helped in staffing the HUT. We have lost three members from the hut rota so anyone who is able to help on Sunday Mornings or Wednesday evenings would be welcomed. The more volunteers we have the less each must do, but in general it is about once per month. Please let Adrian Ford know if you can help.

David also asked members to consider planting a few extra seeds to sell at the Trading Hut, at the Open day which is usually in May or for the Annual Show in September. This year's Open days were very successful with profits made from plant sales. Please support the Show we are struggling for sponsors.

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT – Keith Biggs

Keith reported that Open days will be organised at allotments again this year over a weekend in May with the main activities, plant stall etc at the Cedar Ave site. Volunteers are requested to assist with the various activities on the two days.

The Annual Show will be held on Saturday 2 September 2017 with an early opening planned for 6.30am to prepare the main tables for entries from 9.00am.

The Council have arranged to carry forward funding from this year to 2017/18. This will enable us to start planning for funding from April 2017 as follows:

- Cedar Ave prepare for all paths for disability access required for new Accessibility Raised Beds
- Lawton Rd prepare for all paths for disability access required for new Accessibility Raised Beds

KB advised that he is working on a variety of new bids to obtain funding for the planned projects.

7. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

We currently have 220 members which includes 142 allotment holders. We need to advertise for more members including approaching U3A.

8. PRESIDENTS ADDRESS – not present

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All current officers were willing to stand and were re-elected

No new members were put forward

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

An issue was raised about the responsibility for the trees at Cedar Ave site which have now blown down in the recent gales. These were a point for discussion at the last AGM. KB indicated that a resolution is being sought from Cheshire East who having confirmed it is their responsibility and have undertaken some low-level trimming but have stated more work needs to be done. KS will continue to peruse.

A suggestion was made that we request Cheshire East to undertake a formal risk assessment.

11. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Members were invited partake in the excellent refreshments provided by David Spall. A variety of seed and potatoes were also on sale.