

Alsager Gardens Association

AGM

TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2019

AT ALSAGER HIGHFIELDS FOUNDATION
PRIMARY SCHOOL

8pm

AGENDA

- 1. CHAIRMAN - Adrian Ford** - Opening Remarks
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Minutes** of the AGM meeting held on 14 February 2018
- 4. Matters Arising**
- 5. TREASURER'S REPORT - David Pitt**
- 6. TRADING SECRETARY'S REPORT – David Spall**
- 7. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Pauline Hubbard (Vice Chair) will present the Secretary's report

1. Report on the 2018 Achievements, the Accessibility Project and Funding Awards
2. New Homes Bonus Application for Funding – Cedar Avenue Accessible Community Building
3. Update of Policies and Procedures
4. Report on the Devolved Management Agreement between The AGA and Alsager Town Council

- 8. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT – Hilary Robinson**
- 9. PRESIDENTS ADDRESS – Derek Hough**
- 10. Election of Officers**
- 11. To Agree the revised AGA Constitution**
- 12. Close of Meeting**

Members are invited to partake in light refreshments, tea, coffee and sandwiches and a variety of seeds and potatoes will be on sale.

To view the web site, go to <http://www.alsagergardensassociation>

1. CHAIRMANS OPENING REMARKS

Adrian Ford

2. APOLOGIES

3. MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2018

PRESENT

Chairman – Adrian Ford

David Pitt (Treasurer) David Spall (Trading Secretary)

Derek Hough (President) Hilary Robinson (Membership Secretary)

Mike Smith, John Nixon, Mike Hubbard, Pauline Hubbard, Susan Plowright, Lesley Quartermaine, Jane Smith

John Quartermaine, Brian Plowright, Muriel Dale, Ken Jones, Roger Pask, Peter Edwards, Margaret Brooks, Mike Brooks, Julie Salisbury, David Salisbury, John Willets, Judith Ford, Tom Egley, Hilary Egley, Neil Challinor, Helen Challinor, Tony Smith, Sean McCabe, Lynn McCabe, Doug Heath, Les Papiernik, Henry Cox, Stewart Challinor, Fred Stark

(35 attendees)

Opening Remarks

The Chairman opened the meeting by explaining that Keith Biggs (secretary) was absent from the meeting due to illness but is progressing well. He has been sent our best wishes for his recovery. In view of this Mike Smith has agreed to act as temporary Site Representative at Coronation Avenue and Pauline Hubbard will present the Secretary's report on behalf of Keith. David Spall was thanked for providing the refreshments which will be available at the close of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Keith Biggs (Secretary): Bob Cliffe

2. MINUTES of the meeting held on 14 February 2017 were agreed as a true record

3. MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising

4. TREASURER'S REPORT - David Pitt

David reported

- The accounts to year end 31st December 2017 have been audited by Macintosh and a letter detailing key issues has been provided and a copy of the audited accounts was distributed to the meeting.
- This year Gross Trading profit is £1532 which represents 30.8% of sales and is due to seed and plant sales: sales have increased by 18%. Stock in hand has reduced from £1955 last year to £1255 this year.
- A total of £538 profit was made generated from our members generous donations of plants and seedlings, which were subsequently sold at the highly successful Allotment Open Days and The Annual Show. In addition, a further £161 was made from the raffle/tombola.
- In 2017 the AGA Membership increased from £3.00 to £3.50. This was required to support an increase in the NSALG Affiliation fees. This is reflected in the accounts under **Subscriptions** which show an increase of £96 and under the **Affiliation Fees** showing an increase of £81 (£576 this year compared to £495 last year).
- Income from plot rents has increased by £257 (£3854 compared to £3597). This is due to a £1 increase in rental fees per half plot and that we have let an additional 5.5 half plots this year when compared to last year.

The accounts reflect the holding of £2045 Grant Monies received for the Accessibility Raised Beds Project. This money is ring fenced for the specific project use.

Allotment expenses this year were £4785 compared to £2762 last year. This reflects the investments made in works at Lawton Road and Cedar Avenue.

A figure of £1965 has been allocated to the Profit and Loss Account as this is expenditure which cannot be capitalised and relates to work on the Accessibility plots.

Overall the 2017 accounts show a net loss of £1082 compared to a loss of £1979 last year. The accounts include a figure of £2494 depreciation for buildings included for this year (£10,538 -£13,032). If the accounts are viewed without this depreciation, then we would have a healthy profit of £1412. However, capital items will require replacement at some time in the future.

The Balance sheet shows capital which relates to the following *Grants which been received from the following sponsors who we would like to formally acknowledge and to whom we are most grateful:*

£2806 from **The Big Lottery Fund**

£1000 from **Cheshire East Borough Council**

£1000 from **Persimmon Homes**

£ 500 from **David Wilson Homes**

Note: Following closure of this year's accounts a further Grant of £500 was received from **Seddon Homes** this will be shown in the 2018 AGA Accounts

5. TRADING SECRETARY'S REPORT – David Spall

David first thanked the school for providing the venue for the AGM and for the facilities for refreshments.

He opened his report with an expression of thanks to all members for submitting their seed and potato orders before the end of October deadline. This is much appreciated and helps with the task of collating the information and sending the order off to the supplier. He apologised to the 7 people whose orders were incomplete which had occurred due to an unforeseen technical hitch. Sorry!

David thanked Mike Hubbard for the tremendous work he has undertaken in “Transforming” the Trading Hut with new shelving and updating it with “self-serve” facilities and providing much more room for customers inside the shop area. This has been achieved at no cost to the Association.

He then went on to thank the volunteers who assisted with the very large delivery of over 120 bags of compost, several sacks of potatoes and other supplies for the shop. As a result of the , valuable help on the day, the work was completed within a couple of hours rather than the several hours it would normally have taken.

The Trading hut will reopen Sunday 4th March. It has been restocked with compost, grow more, a range of fertilisers and all other key garden/allotment requirements. David drew attention to the difference in the composition of the *Clover Compost and the Professional Compost* which is priced at only £1 in difference. Our supplier has advised that *growing* with the Professional Compost is guaranteed!

Peat free compost also remains available for purchase.

David responded to a question about netting – Is any available from the hut that will deter Pidgeon's from eating the seedlings? David confirmed that a range of netting is available for purchase from the Trading Hut.

6.SECRETARY'S REPORT – Keith Biggs

The Chairman then introduced Pauline Hubbard who presented the Secretary's report on behalf of Keith Biggs.

- In his report Keith expressed deepest regret at the sad loss of our Vice Chairman, Peter Dobson, who was also the site representative at Cedar Avenue. Peter had done a considerable amount of work for the Association and achieved a good deal of progress at the Cedar Avenue allotment site. His wife Sheila continues with her allotment at Cedar Avenue.
- Many thanks went to Mike Hubbard for the work undertaken at Cedar Avenue and for taking on the role of site representative. There are no plots currently available at Cedar Avenue and a waiting list is now in place.
- Many thanks also went to Adrian Ford for work at the Lawton Road site and to John Nixon at for his work and support at the Talke Road site. Only ¼ plot remains vacant at Talke Road.
- Pauline expressed thanks to Keith Biggs for his work at Coronation Avenue. Mike Smith was thanked for offering to take up the role of temporary site representative at Coronation Avenue which currently has no vacant plots.
- Keith expressed thanks to Pauline Hubbard for her work in developing the Web Site which has been expanded to give more information and photographs about our events and the Annual Show. It also now gives electronic access to our range of forms and documents including our rules and regulations. Members were encouraged to contact Pauline if they had ideas about what they would like to see on the web site. To view the web site, go to <http://www.alsagergardensassociation.org.uk/>

Thanks, was given to the range of people who assisted with the organisation of the Annual Show held on 2 September 2017. The produce displayed was of a high standard with a significant increase in entrants.

Maintenance standards have improved at all sites. At Lawton Road a new path has been laid stretching from the gate to the toilet/tool store, provided using funds from our maintenance budget. Two new sections of palisade security fencing at Lawton Rd have been erected which were paid for from the Town Council Budget.

On behalf of the Association, Pauline thanked Keith for the sterling work that he has undertaken in securing grant funding for the Accessibility Raised Beds Project. The amounts secured are reported above, under the Treasurers report. Wain homes have indicated that they will provide funds in April 2018 and there are other firms that Keith has contacted, that we wait to hear from.

The grants have been used to commence the first 4 raised beds at Lawton Road which are now in place. They will shortly be filled with Vegetable soil and have paving installed around them. An order will be placed at the end of February, by the Town Council, for the sleepers required for the raised beds at the other allotment sites. Construction work will be undertaken in stages. Once Lawton Rd is complete, we will concentrate on Cedar Avenue followed by Talke Rd. Individual plot preparation can commence at any time that help is available.

A huge thank you went to the teams of volunteers who have, along with Colin and Tom Cartledge, helped on several occasions with the heavy work of weeding, digging and the construction of the Raised Beds.

7. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT – Hilary Robinson

Hilary reported we currently have around 200+ members, this fluctuates a little up/down during the year and that about 1/3 of our membership are not allotment holders.

8. PRESIDENTS ADDRESS – Derek Hough

Derek introduced Councillor Jane Smith and welcomed her as the Town Council representative for the AGA.

Derek reflected on the 2017 growing season; a cold and wet winter and rain which started in July 2017 which continues. He also referred to the impact of global warming.

He thanked the Officers of the Association for their hard work throughout the year. He referred to the Annual Show and the compliment from the Mayor of Cheshire East, Councillor Arthur Moran, that the produce was the best he had seen at all the shows he had visited. We will look forward to welcoming the New Major, Councillor Lesley Smetham, to our next show In September 2018.

Derek also thanked Bob Cliffe for his tremendous help and all his hard work. Bob has previously sourced and delivered quantities of materials at no cost to the association and has recently delivered a large quantity of top soil ready for the raised beds project.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Derek Hough confirmed that all current officers were willing to stand. He sought any further nominations from the floor for all the positions and those of Vice Chair and Show Secretary.

The following were elected

President	Derek Hough
Chairman	Adrian Ford
Vice Chair	Pauline Hubbard
Treasurer	David Pitt
Secretary	Keith Biggs
Trading Secretary	David Spall
Membership Secretary	Hilary Robinson

The position of show secretary remains vacant. Derek requested that anyone wishing to take up the roll please contact the Secretary.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Change to AGA Rules and Constitution

The Chairman drew attention to a rule change of the AGA Rules and Constitution that needed to be reported and ratified at the AGM.

The following change to Rule 2 was agreed:

The Association manages the four allotment sites in Alsager for the Alsager Town Council. It collects rents from plot holders, allocates plots to prospective tenants and monitors the standard of plots. It organises regular maintenance and improvements at the sites using the annual maintenance budget provided from our rental payments to the Council.

10.2 Assets of the AGA

Derek Hough reported that the Town Council Asset manager has raised the issue of ownership of allotment assets and issues of Health and Safety. The Asset manager is to meet with the AGA Treasurer, David Pitt.

11. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 9pm.

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

4. MATTERS ARISING

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

DAVID PITT



ALSAGER GARDENS ASSOCIATION

Trading and Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 31 December 2018

2017 £		2018 £		2017 £		2018 £
1955	Stocks at 1 January 2018	1255		4980	Sales	4609
2748	Purchases	3083		1255	Stocks at 31 December 2018	1290
1532	Trading Profit c/d	1561				
6235		5899		6235		5899
137	Postage, Stationery, Printing	136		1532	Trading Profit b/d	1561
576	Affiliation Fees	576		672	Subscriptions	664
210	Honoraria	310		3854	Allotment Rents	3996
2494	Depreciation	2497		1	Bank Interest	4
4785	Allotment Expenses	8628		2045	Grants and donations	5305
418	Building Expenses	1047		161	Open day	178
307	Miscellaneous	390				
420	Loss on Annual Show	292				
				1082	Net Loss for Year	2168
9347		13876		9347		13876

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2018

49148	Accumulated Profit at 1.1.2018	48066		51789	Buildings at Cost	51789
(1082)	Net (Loss) for Year	(2168)		(13032)	Depreciation	(15529)
		-		38757		36260
48066		45898				
112	Sundry Creditors	214		1255	Stocks at cost	1290
2806	Big Lottery Fund Grant	3341		6676	Cash at Bank: Current Account	2847
2500	Grants	1000		4355	Deposit Account	4359
(1965)	P & L expense Tfr	(5305)		434	Cash in Hand	303
				42	Sundry Debtors	89
51519		45148		51519		45148

We have examined the books and vouchers of the Association and have obtained information and explanations necessary for the purpose of examination. In our opinion, these accounts are in accordance with the books and records of the Association.



McIntosh Chartered Accountants

21 February 2019

6. TRADING SECRETARY'S REPORT

DAVID SPALL



TRADING SECRETARY'S REPORT

Can I thank all members for their support in not only buying stock from the Hut but also supporting the Open day pictured here last May.



In addition can I particularly thank members who ordered in early October the seeds and potatoes they would like to purchase.

The profit we make from these sales is what allows the Association to pay for the services members enjoy.

I hope you find the newsletters interesting.

If ANY member would like to send me copy or photo's , for inclusion at any time, it would be appreciated, and I am sure of interest to me.

Alsager Gardens Association

Allotment Rents 2019

Full Plot	£64.00
3/4 plot	£48.00
Half Plot (The size of most allotments)	£32.00
Quarter Plot	£16.00
1/3	£21.35
Accessibility Raised Beds	£10.00
AGA Subscription	£ 4.00 per year

Payment of your Subs and Plot rentals can be made at the Trading Hut

Trading Hut – Opening Hours – 2019



Sundays from 3th March to 19nd May
10.00 am. until 12.00 noon.

Sundays from 26th May to 27th October
10.30 am. until 11.30 am.

Wednesday from 10th April to 24th July
7.00 pm. until 8.00 pm.

New 2019 Price List Available from the Trading Hut

7. Secretary's Report

Pauline Hubbard

Funding received 2018

**£500 FROM SEDDON
HOMES**



And £500 from Stoke FC

But we didn't get to see a match!!!!

.....and a whopping £3260 from Tesco Bags of Help!!!!



.....And for 2019 – we've just heard we
have secured
£400 from Alsager Town Council
to assist with the funding of
the Annual Show



2018 - Our Achievements, the Accessibility Project

Filling the Raised Beds Lawton Road Spring 2018



Our Team of Volunteers Filling the Raised Beds at Lawton Road



Lawton Road – Completed Raised Bed June 2018



Cedar Avenue
New path from Gate to
Raised Beds!



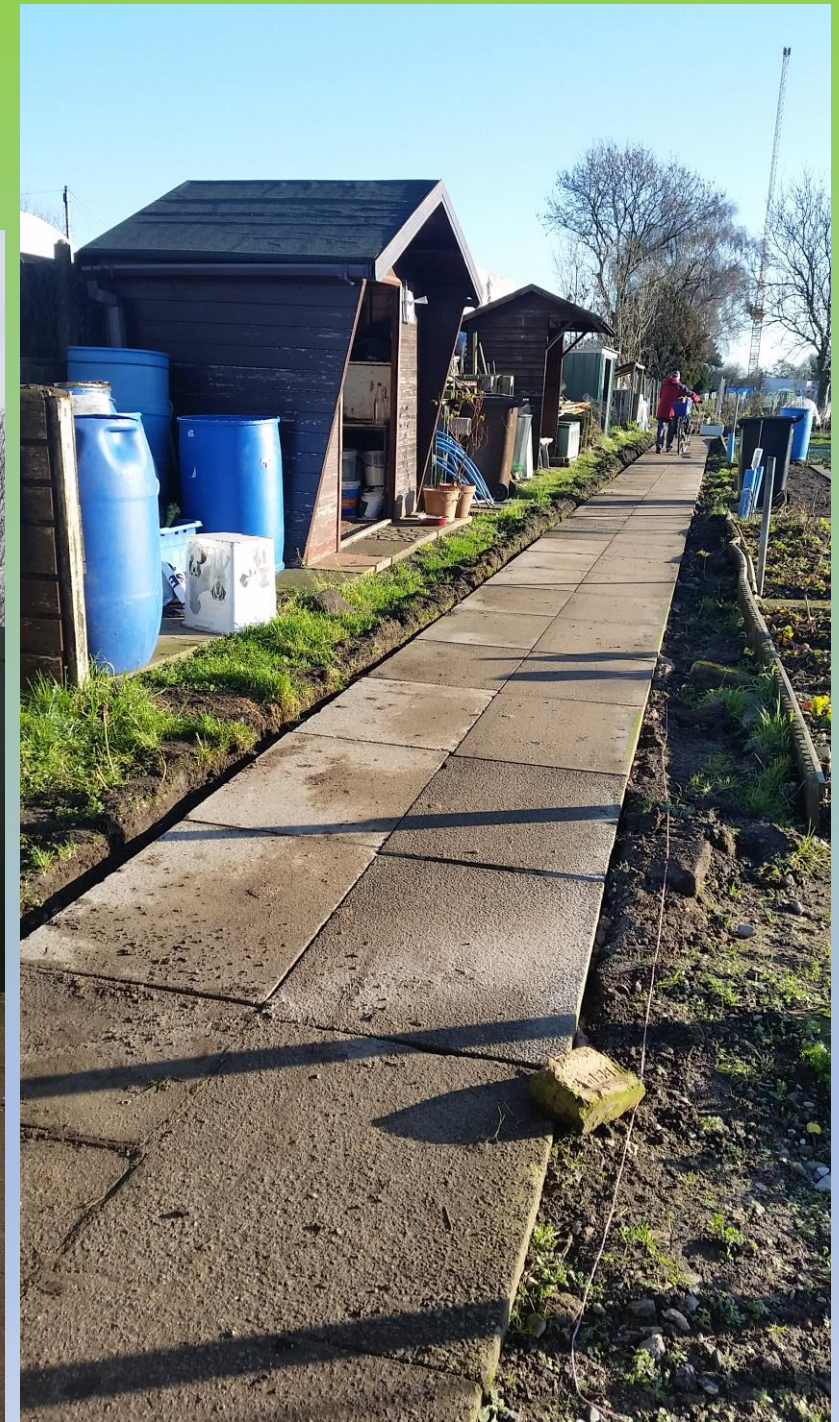
Cedar Avenue – New Raised Beds



Cedar Avenue
New path from Main
Gate & past the Toilet
Block and down to
the rear path



Cedar Avenue New Path



Our Future Plans

We hope to build on the sturdy base we will have established in providing easy and safe access to our allotments plots for everyone, but particularly for those who have difficulty working at ground level.

- Enhance the ARB area by providing appropriate shelters, water butts, composters, cloches and tool storage and a sitting area close to the raised beds
- Provide secure communal tool storage at Talke Road and Coronation Avenue.
- At Coronation Ave we would like to provide a central path from the gate and accessible raised beds to the toilet building and water stand pipe.
- At Lawton Road we would like to improve the Car Parking arrangements to enable people with mobility issues easy access to the Raised Beds
- At Cedar Avenue we would like to establish a communal building

ALSAGER GARDENS ASSOCIATION
ALLOTMENT ANNUAL MAINTENANCE and 5 YEAR IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2019

REQUIREMENT	ALLOTMENT SITE				PRIORITY	EST COST	REMARKS
	CEDAR AVE	CORONATION RD	LAWTON RD	TALKE RD			
ANNUAL INSPECTION AND REMEDIAL WORK							
BUILDINGS - TOILET- all sites	✓	✓	✓	✓	1		Minor repairs undertaken post winter
BUILDINGS - TOOL SHED - all sites where present	✓	✓	✓	✓	1		
BOUNDARY FENCING - all sites	✓	✓	✓	✓	1		
BOUNDARY TREES/HEDGES - all sites	✓	✓	✓	✓	1		HIGH PRIORITY - Coron Ave Site visit 12/03/19 options and costs being explored
PAVING - Health & Safety all sites	✓	✓	✓	✓	1		Voluntary Work Undertaken at Cedar Ave to level off area next to the Toilet Bldg
TRADING HUT							
Re- Paint Exterior (Vandal Proof Paint)					1	£380	REPAINT PROGRAMMED FOR 28TH MARCH19
IMPROVEMENTS							
Complete Accessibility Raised Beds	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	£3,445	£3445 TESCO AWARD Talke Rd /Coron Ave Scheduled for April - July 2019
Paving Path to Gate 120 slabs - Coronation Ave		✓			1	£1,800	Cost £1800 excluding provision of Slabs
Communal Building Cedar Avenue	✓				1	£49,000	New Home Bonus Bid for Funding
Tool Shed - Talke Rd and Coronation Ave		✓		✓	1	pending	
Cedar Avenue - Maint Access adjacent to playing field	✓				2	pending	Provide access for manure etc utilising unworkable plot. Create fruit/flower area
Toilets - Insulate and Isolate for winter use	✓	✓	✓		2	pending	Evaluation Required - Talke Rd composting toilet not required
Drainage - Cedar Ave	✓				3	pending	Costs are Prohibitive at £30k +for initial works
Hard Standing Area inside gate - Lawton Rd			✓		3	pending	Possible bid for funding - link to accessibility raised beds
Shelter-Talke Rd				✓	3	pending	Hoping for a donated shed to modify
COMPLETED WORKS							
TRADING HUT New Secure Metal Door	COMPLETED SEPT 2018						
PAVING FOR ACCESSIBILITY	✓		✓				Cedar Ave completed Feb 2019 and Lawton Rd Completed 2018
Accessibility Raised Beds	✓		✓				Cedar Ave Completed and Lawton Rd Completed 2018
Communal Cold Frames - Coronation Ave	COMPLETED						

FUNDING BID - NEW HOMES BONUS

We had the opportunity in December to put forward a bid against the New Homes Bonus Funding in respect of a communal building at Cedar Avenue.

Over 200 bids were put forward and we were not successful this time.

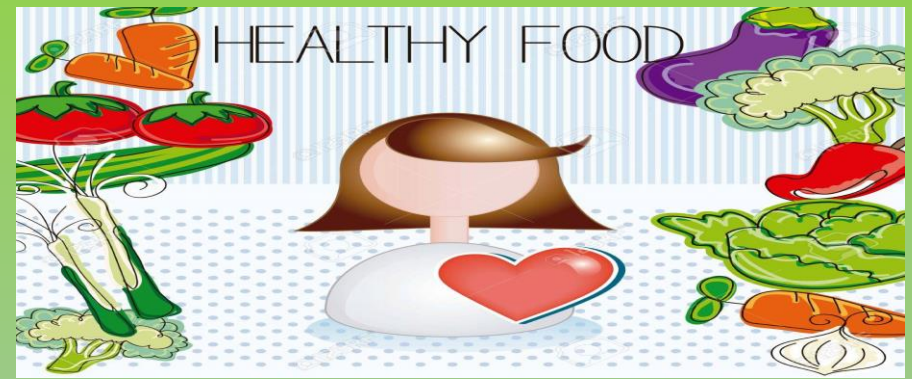
We can resubmit our bid in the next round for 2019.

Our bid is for £31,501 and if successful we would need raise a further £13,870 from other sources.

We plan to resubmit our Bid and also loook elsewhere for funding opportunities such as BIG LOTTERY

The support of our volunteers will still be required to undertake site preparation and the exterior landscaping and interior decoration etc.

What will we do in the Building



It will provide a **forum where**

- people can meet and socialise, a focal point for our allotment community and where group partners using the allotment, can assemble and socialise.
- you can access a range of information
- new allotment holders can be brought for induction
- we can meet on Open Days as a resource and to provide a covered area for discussions and refreshments



We can hold events using the skills and knowledge of our members



For example

Spring Event- “How to Grow your Own” - in an Allotment or Small Garden or in Containers”

Early Summer Event -“Maximise Your Home Produce” – Freezing, preserves, recipes and ideas.

Late Summer Event -“How to Stage and Show your Produce”
(ready for the September annual show held at Alsager Civic)



Winter Event - “Christmas Decorations” Using your garden/allotment produce



The boring stuff..... Policies and Procedures

This year we have written, reviewed and introduced

- ***A New Data Protection Privacy Statement***
- ***A New Health and Safety Policy***
- ***A New Allotment Site Risk Assessment***
- ***A New Health and Safety Guide for Plot holders***
- ***A New Equality and Diversity Policy***
- **New Financial Procedures**
- ***Revised Allotment Rules***
- ***Revised Constitution*** - which is on the agenda today



Devolved Management Agreement

We have been working with Alsager Town Council to formalise and agree the tasks we undertake on their behalf in maintaining and improving the standards on the four Allotment Sites.

We have agreed our respective roles and responsibilities and have a signed agreement about who does what.

A Copy of the Agreement can be viewed on our web site

www.alsagergardensassociation.org.uk

8. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

HILARY ROBINSON

2018 – HOW WE SPENT YOUR £3.50



- We had a total membership of 190 in 2018 this compares to 192 in 2017
- We are charged £3.00 per member for NAS membership and its benefits
- The remaining 50p is used toward the running of the Association, including the Publication, Printing etc. of the Newsletters we send out to members twice a year
- Where possible Newsletters are hand delivered otherwise they are posted
- To reduce these overheads, be more “Green”, reduce our carbon footprint and act in a more environmental & sustainable way, we would like to reduce our use of paper and move to sending the Newsletter out electronically by email or by directing members to view a copy on the website where it can be read or printed on demand.
- A paper copy will still be available to those members who request it.



**The National
Allotment Society**

National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd

Membership benefits

The National Allotment Society offers membership to individuals, local allotment associations, schools, local authorities and land owners.

Each type of membership offers a host of benefits and support services.

Each named individual member of the AGA is registered with the NAS each year when you renew your membership. The benefits from the NAS are

Quarterly magazine and e-news

Discounted quality seeds

Gardening advice

PLUSIndividual Allotmenters Liability Insurance is included in membership for association.

This is provided by SHIELD TOTAL INSURANCE

**To ensure you are registered with the NAS
and enable you to receive the member benefits-
including the Shield Insurance - we need to send
them your details**

They require us to send them your

Name

Address

Postcode

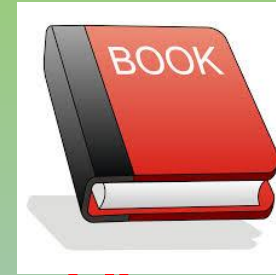
Email address

and if you are a Plot Holder.

It is important therefore that this information is up to date

So If You Change Any of Your Information We need to Know!

You can do this by Calling in at the Trading Hut



The person on Hut Duty will update the **“Red Book”**... our Bible in respect of member information.

*

At the start of the season our “hut officers” will ask you to confirm your details and take note of any changes. The changes are then automatically picked up by the membership secretary who will update the central record.

*

Other ways of up-dating your information are via your allotment site manager or by e mail to the secretary at

alsagergardensassociationseceretary@outlook.com

9. PRESIDENTS ADDRESS

DEREK HOUGH

The Continued Success of the Association

The Developments of the Raised Beds Project.

- Funds have been raised externally.
- Key Work has been done professionally and to a high standard.
- Project is Inclusive of all sites with Talke Road site and Coronation avenue scheduled for completion early this year
- Lawton Road site Community Allotment plot – help is needed

Our Partnership with the Town Council

Background

Following the emergence of Cheshire East in 2009, the allotments were transferred into the management of the Alsager Town Council in 2013 with a 125 year lease and no supporting budget.

Under the lease, Alsager Town Council have responsibility for the land within the boundary of the allotments and Cheshire East are the landowner with responsibility for all the land outside of our allotment boundaries.

Cheshire East are also the landowner for the Cedar Avenue Car park.

The Role of the Town Council

- Being at local level we have developed a strong relationship with the Town Council who are able to support and work with us to ensure we have transparent rent costs.
- Since taking responsibility in 2013, the Town Council has made considerable improvements to all sites using capital and revenue monies on fencing, paving and towards the accessibility raised beds in support of the AGA “5 year plan”
- The Town Council has battled with Cheshire East over tree removal and pollarding and was Instrumental in achieving the tree removal on the “Cedar Avenue Car Park”.

TREE REMOVAL – CEDAR AVENUE CAR PARK

This was a big job!

The tree was sited close to Overhead Mains Cables so these needed to be isolated.

The contractors did a great job and it was quite spectacular to watch this “100 foot Crack Willow Tree “ being felled without any damage or debris on our allotment.

They started cutting the top branches first reducing the canopy down until there was just the main Trunk.....







UPDATE - The Cedar Avenue Car Park

- Our car park used for our Trading Hut and for access to Cedar Avenue Allotments - is in serious dis-repair
- We have raised the matter with the **Town Council** and they are battling with Cheshire East to get a resolution
- The recent “Chronicle” reported on this key issue

UPDATE - CEDAR AVE CAR PARK

www.chronicleseries.co.uk

launch
to for
ctions



launches
Cheshire
Saturday

place on

2pm at
Social
Alsager

e many
who are
Cheshire

Land used as 'vital' car park could be fenced off

A councillor wants a "vital" car park to be retained as concerns grow that the land could be fenced off.

Allotment users, a Scout group and parents from St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School all currently use the patch of land for parking, on Cedars Avenue, Alsager, which is owned by Cheshire East Council.

At last Monday's meeting of the town council council's Civic and Services Committee, at Alsager Civic, Coun Derek

Hough stated that he had been pursuing a permanent solution for "years".

The Lib Dem councillor said that he had received correspondence from Cheshire East, stating that land could be "fenced off" if it was deemed that unfit for purpose.

He had also been told by Cheshire East that St Gabriel's School had installed a gate and that the authority was going to check its "legality".

Coun Hough did not rule out that the town council could be asked to buy the land.

He plans to arrange a meeting with all relevant groups who use the area, which includes Cheshire East's public right way of team.

Coun Hough labelled the path that goes through the land as "not fit for purpose".

Sylvia Dyke, of Woolaston Drive, who uses the route to access other estates via Cedar Avenue, said that it "couldn't possibly be blocked off".

Previously the *Chronicle* reported that Cheshire East had been filling in potholes at the car park on a regular basis, and local residents feared its condition could make it inaccessible to people with disabilities.

Coun Hough added: "I would welcome the help of the town council in expressing the views that this piece of ground is absolutely vital to this part of Alsager."

Lib Dem Coun Shirley Jones, chairman of the town council, suggested that this issue would be something to consider in the future.

Coun Hough responded:

"Sorry chairman it is not for the future, it is for now."

Coun Jones felt that the civic and services committee couldn't take up the issue.

Coun Hough declared that the committee was responsible for the allotments.

Coun Jones said: "We have a contract for the allotments but not the car park."

Coun Hough responded that the Allotments Association was "not happy" because it had authorisation for its trading hut to be on the car park.

Coun Hough proposed the town council investigated options to procure the piece of land.

The proposal was approved.

Alsager currently has free car parks at Fanny's Croft, Fairview, Station Road and Well Lane that are operated by the council.

Action being taken

- The Initial response from Cheshire East is that there is no money to repair this unadopted car park and they threatened to fence off access which they cannot do!
- The Town Council have asked for costs and options to resolve this matter including options to purchase the land
- We are examining our legal position regarding the Trading Hut and our entitlement to access and car parking



CEDAR AVE ACCESS & TRADING HUT CAR PARK Spot the Pot Holes!



..... And Finally a plea for help!

- **Milton Park Steering Group** have ambitious plans to gain green Flag Status and the encouragement of wild life.
- Our own Hilary Robinson is at the forefront.
- We are now trying to recruit more volunteers to help with
 - the wider projects
 - the long Border
 - the Rose beds and other flower beds.
- Currently there are opening for helpers with general maintenance on a weekly or monthly basis and larger projects like sowing and planting
- Any help you can offer please contact Derek or Hilary

10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All members are able to join the committee and we would welcome you at any time.

We meet every last Tuesday of the month

So why don't you come along to the next meeting and find out what we do

CURRENT OFFICERS

President

Derek Hough

Chairman

Adrian Ford

Vice Chair

Pauline Hubbard

Treasurer

David Pitt

Trading Secretary

David Spall

Membership Secretary

Hilary Robinson

Town Council Rep

Cllr Jane Smith

Secretary

Vacant (Keith Biggs resigned due to Ill Health)

Show Secretary

Vacant

General Officer

Judith Ford

General Officer

Lesley Quartermaine

Site Managers

John Nixon (Talke Rd) Michael Smith (Coronation Ave)

Mike Hubbard (Cedar Ave) Adrian Ford (Lawton Road)

11. TO AGREE REVISED CONSTITUTION

The Executive Committee has the responsibility to

- Make sure the association is doing what it was set up to do.
- Provide checks and balances and oversight of the association's performance, ethics, finances and risks.
- Ensure that the association has the money it needs, spends its money sensibly and on the activities it was raised for and that it complies with our governing document - our Constitution.

The constitution has been revised to reflect all of the above as follows:

THE CONSITUTION - SO WHAT HAS CHANGED?

No Changes to Clauses 1. Name. 8. Casting Votes 9. Nomination of Association President

Minor Changes to the wording of

Clauses 5. Dissolution - 12. Resolutions – 13. Amendment of Constitution - 17. Purchase of Goods

Significant Changes or New Clauses

2. Objectives – Extended to cover all that we now do including fundraising

3. Application of Income and Property - New Clause How we use our money, reimbursement to Officers

4. Benefits and Payments to AGA Officers and Connected Persons – New Clause

6. General Meetings and Governance - Wording to ensure timing of AGM and Numbers required to call an EGM

7. Quorums – Changes to the numbers required to make a meeting quorate

10. Election of Officers –Changes to ensure clarity that all officers retire at/before AGM & that any member can be a Committee Member

11. Conflicts of Interest and Conflicts of Loyalties – New Clause

14. Memberships- Change to include a minimum age of 16, refusals of applications and automatic NAS affiliation

15. Termination of Membership – Additional wording to clarify removal and termination of members

16. Subscriptions – To confirm the authority of the Executive Committee to set the annual subscription

18. Accounts – Wording to reflect what we retain, for how long and that the accounts will be presented to the AGM

19. Publication of the Constitution - New Clause - Publication of the Constitution and any subsequent approved revisions, shall be sufficiently served to members by posting it on the AGA website at

www.alsagergardensassociation.org.uk

12. CLOSE OF MEETING

A BIG THANK YOU !

Thank you all for attending the AGM and thank you to all that have helped with the AGA activities over the last year.

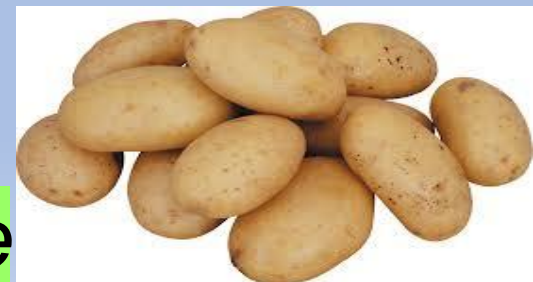
- Those that helped with The Allotment Open Days
- Volunteers , helpers and the Judges at our Annual Show
- The Volunteers who have given their time and effort with our various Projects of Work
- Our Hut Volunteers
- Muriel Dale for taking such exceptional photographs at our events
- Elsie Warrilow for our Annual Allotment & Gardens Competition
- Our Site Managers and our Committee who undertake such a lot of work behind the scenes and on our allotments.

12. CLOSE OF MEETING



A Big Thanks to everyone for attending

*Members are invited to partake in light refreshments,
tea, coffee and sandwiches.*



A variety of seeds and potatoes are also on sale



End

