

PLYMYARD HALL ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

16th JANUARY 2008, AT 7.30pm

HELD AT THE OC (OCTEL) CLUB

Present

Jim Melville, Joy Hogg, Ian Shaw, David Allan, Grace Trowman, Gerry Warr, John Johnson, Christine Sloan, Ken Lord, Richard Bugg, Glen Grant, Brian Dooley, Sheila Chapman, Paul Chapman, Sue Youd, Paul Youd, Peter Mercer, Ron MacKay, Jenny MacKay, Heather Campbell, Doris Gibbons.

Minutes

1. Jim Melville, Chairman welcomed attendees to the OC Club, and to the 7th AGM of the Plymyard Hall Allotment Association.
2. Apologies were received from Mick Gallagher
3. Minutes from the previous AGM held on 17th January 2008 were not available for members to peruse, but the meeting felt that they were likely to be a true reflection on the meeting at that time.
4. Jim Melville, in his Chairman's report reflected on the activities of the Association during the last twelve months, including the success of the Annual Show, the seed purchase scheme, the web-site and how indebted we are to John Mumford for his hard work in ensuring the equipment is maintained and managed. Jim had met with Ben Chapman MP in October to discuss vandalism – though this is less of a problem. Mr Chapman is planning to bring an amendment to the House to raise the profile of allotments throughout the UK. (Plymyard Hall Allotments are already mentioned in Hansard).

Jim continued by re-capping on the activities of the Association since its formation in 2001. At which time vandalism was a huge problem, occupancy was at just 30%. He reminded the members of the purpose of the Association, which was to reduce vandalism and increase occupancy. Both of these have been achieved – vandalism is greatly reduced and the site is now fully occupied. Jim stressed how important it was to report and vandalism on the site to the Police, however small, as if reported the figures form some sort of "league table" and trouble spots are well monitored by the Police. It was necessary to utilise additional fallow areas on the A41 site to create 10 more plots during the last 12 months.

A number of grants have been allocated to the Association over the last 7 years which have been used to purchase a storage container and mechanised equipment (rotavators, strimmers, generator etc) for use by members. Car parking was created on the A41 site by clearing unusable ground and laying road spoil. A grant was given in 2007 for £1440 to build a club house – currently at planning stage.

Jim expressed thanks to David for his successes in applying for the grants on our behalf, together with thanks to the Show committee – David Allan, Joy Hogg, Sue Youd, Grace Trowman for a successful show. He also thanked Grace and Ian Shaw for running the seed scheme and plant swap.

5. Ian Shaw distributed copies of the balance sheet to members and in his treasurer's report he explained that:

- ◇ As at 31 December 2007, had £2,609.35 in the bank
- ◇ As at January 1st 2006 had £1,667.69 in the bank
- ◇ Looks like just gained £941.66 in the year, but this doesn't show what's really happened
- ◇ Total of 54 Members for 2007 an increase of 13 from the previous year
- ◇ This is an opportune point to ask you to pay for your 2008 membership before you leave - at the new rate of £7.00 agreed at last year's AGM
- ◇ The annual show, made a profit of £8.89 this year - see appendix 1 to the balance sheet for the full story
- ◇ Bought an additional gazebo to hold the flower section of the show in this year - £71 and we can also use this on the site for any other non-show events.
- ◇ Paid Insurance £131
- ◇ Seed scheme generated just over £67 with a decrease of members from 22 to 19, taking advantage of the scheme from the previous year – See appendix 2 of the balance sheet for full details.
- ◇ We are currently negotiating the bulk purchase of compost - we need 10 bags to qualify for the discount, but only have orders for 7 at the moment.
- ◇ We'd had some CCTV cameras donated, which we can't use as they're for inside a building, so John has been continuing to sell them for us which as brought in over £160 so many thanks express to John Johnson for arranging this - there are still a few more, so we hope to continue this trend.
- ◇ Also paid membership to the national association of £70 - but don't appear to have paid our membership to Wirral Federation.
- ◇ Changes in HSBC current account interest rates have meant that the meagre 10p or so that we earned in interest every month finished in June 2006. As a result, we decided to open a second high interest account that would earn the association

some money. The Treasurer was pleased to report this has earned us just over £39 interest this year.

- ◇ David applied for and we gratefully received a grant of £1440 from WBC to enable us to put up some sort of meeting venue on site - we've so far had the site cleared, and applied for planning permission.
- ◇ In conclusion, Total expenditure for the year £1667.68, Total income for the year - £4254.18 (includes the money in bank at start of year), Leaving us with an overall balance of - £2609.35

Ian commended the report/balance sheet to the members, and this was accepted.

6. Joy was asked to give the Secretary's report, but declined, saying that everything was covered in Jim's Chairman's report.
7. Jim explained that the committee – himself, Joy Hogg, David Alan were standing down and not seeking re-election. Ian Shaw was also standing down but wished to seek re-election as Treasurer. This led to discussion from the floor about the future of the Association. It was decided to continue with the Association and Glen Grant, Ian Shaw and Grace Trowman were elected to form a new committee. After consideration, Joy Hogg decided that she wished to remain part of the committee and this was welcomed by members as Joy has such unique knowledge of the site as Site Secretary. A number of offers of help and support were expressed to the new committee.

Sheila Chapman expressed thanks to the old committee for their hard work since the formation of the Association and this was seconded from the floor.

8. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm, the date time and place of the next AGM would be circulated to members in due course.