

Jubilee Allotment Holders Association
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
10 October 2018, 7pm at the Bockeridge Centre

All welcomed to the meeting and a sign-in sheet was used to record attendance:

16 Plots were represented at the meeting

PC Finbar Simmons attended the first part of the meeting to discuss recent vandalism at the allotments

Chairman's Report

A warm welcome to all the members who have turned up tonight, and a special welcome to any new members.

We have had a large turn round in plot holders this year. Several people have left for various reasons which is always a shame, but for those here you will all be aware that owning an allotment plot is not an easy task and does involve some back breaking work at times. Not only do we have our own plots to look after but we also have a large area in which our allotments are situated to look after.

As you are all aware we lost the use of the ride on mower early in the year as its owner decided to reclaim it for their own use. We do have a large area of grass to cut and it is not fair that it is left up to just a handful of people to carry out this task. We have been fortunate this year that we have had such a dry and hot summer. At least this meant that the grass did not grow at its usual rate. However, if any of you are at the allotment and has a spare 10 or 15 minutes, please feel free to get the mower out and cut a section of the grass that might in your opinion need cutting. If you cut round your own plot please can I ask that you also cut round your neighbours plot at the same time. We do have an excellent push mower which is not too heavy to handle. We are looking to purchase our own ride on mower in the new year if funds allow.

I hope that you all agree that the purchase of our rotovator was well worth it. It is certainly a lot more robust and up for the task than our old one was. If anyone needs to use it at any time for the first time please do not hesitate to ask for help if needs be and also have a quick lesson from Don on how to operate it safely.

As most of you will know we finally have got a new water trough at the top end of the plot. This did cost us in excavator hire etc. but hopefully for those that will benefit from it, it was money well spent. The ground has been left a bit on the rough side, so again, a small plea for help. When you are up at the allotment and have 10 minutes to spare please could you spend a little bit of time to help level it off when the ground is soft enough.

On walking round the perimeter of the allotments I noticed that there is still a bit of dumping of green waste going on in the hedge row. Please can I remind you to take your green waste home to dispose of it rather than tipping it on the site.

I have to mention the continuing damage that is occurring on the site generally in the evenings and overnight. As you will all be aware this culminated in one of the sheds being burnt down and several more sheds experiencing damage to windows and doors. This is extremely annoying and upsetting for some people and as you all know there is very little that the police can do about it. Can I ask that any of you that walk dogs in that area to keep an eye open and don't be afraid to contact the police if you see a group of youths gathering at the back of the allotment. As you are also no doubt aware, the Parish Council have

now washed their hands of any responsibility in relation to the sheds and it is up to the plot holder to pay for any upkeep/damage to their own shed.

***** At this point PC Finbar Simmons stood up to address the meeting, a summary of what he said can be found at the end of these minutes *****

We have been fortunate that we have had a fairly regular supply of manure courtesy of Adina. Again a big thank you to those who have attended to help off load when it arrives.

Unfortunately, we still have not got round to painting the container huts. Hopefully this will be top of the agenda to complete early next spring. Please look out for pleas for a 'working party'.

Finally, as some of you will have noticed, we lost our secretary at the end of August when Steph moved on to new pastures. Firstly, I would like to say a huge vote of thanks for all the work Steph put in and an even bigger thank you to Lisa for stepping in at the last minute when our plea for a volunteer failed to deliver.

Kevin Hatch.

Chairman.

Equipment Officer's Report

The tiller is working well, the only problem this season was a lost spring clip that locks the depth bar, this has been replaced.

The walk behind mower has taken a beating this year, being our only machine, with a new clutch cable and a set of cutting blades. It also needs a new drive belt which is on order and will be fitted ASAP.

Don said at the meeting that he was hoping to purchase a new/reconditioned ride-on mower. We are limited in size by the width of the paths between plots. It should cost less than £2000.

Treasurer's Report	
Accounts to 30 September 2018	
INCOME	
Members Subscriptions	£ 940.00
EXPENSES	
Pipe laying	£ 240.00
Insurance	£ 152.92
Petrol	£ 85.70
Clutch/blade mower	£ 58.51
Oil (ride-on)	£ 40.00
Padlock	£ 33.00
Sundries (bucket, scrape, brush, wheels, etc)	£ 23.69
Mower blade	£ 15.00
Grass Seed	£ 3.35
Lynch pin (tiller)	£ 3.00
	£ 655.17
Surplus this year	£ 284.83
BALANCE SHEET	
Bank brought forward from 2017	£ 928.12
Members Subscriptions	£ 940.00
	£ 1,868.12
Expenses	£ 655.17
Balance	£ 1,212.95
Represented by:	
Bank Balance	£ 1,155.20
Cash	£ 57.75
	£ 1,212.95

The Annual Subscription

One of the plot holders suggested that we increase the subs so that we have more in the pot for emergencies, plus since we are hoping to buy a ride on mower.

It was discussed whether we should, as an association, pay for replacement sheds if they are burnt down. It was decided that we should have voluntary collections instead. To this end the secretary offered to collect monies for a replacement shed on plot 39 – monies were collected at the end of the meeting. If anyone else would like to contribute please contact the secretary.

A vote was taken and the subscription for this year has increased to **£25 per plot**.

This can be paid directly to the treasurer (Keith Mortimer, plot 2) or online into the bank account:

Jubilee Allotment Association: Sort code 52-21-32 Account no 25339877

New shed windows

It was mentioned that new perspex windows can be purchased from Hollister's in Yate. Don said it was just as good to use a piece of wood.

Locking the gate

It was highlighted that the Church Rd gate should always be locked by the last car leaving the car park. Also the padlock number should be scrambled after opening the gate.

The committee stepped down and were reappointed

Chairman Kevin Hatch (plot 23)	proposed by Don Renfrew seconded by Keith Mortimer
Treasurer Keith Mortimer (plot 2)	proposed by Lisa Irmiger seconded by Kevin Hatch
Secretary Lisa Irmiger (plot 14)	proposed by Kevin Hatch seconded by Keith Mortimer
Equipment Officer Don Renfrew (plot 17)	proposed by Lisa Irmiger seconded by Keith Mortimer

General committee members: Phil Handy (plot 11), Mark Schofield (plot 1)

Summary of PC Simmonds talk:

1. The Allotments have been added to the police patrol plan
2. The barn in the local area has been used as a place for youths to gather
3. The farmer who leases the barn wants to help and Fin said he was due to have a meeting with him the next day to see what can be done

4. Fin thinks that dumping a load of manure by the barn might put the youths off gathering there, ie making an area unattractive to them is a good deterrent
5. **We can help by noting which days and what times of day things have appeared, eg drug taking paraphernalia etc**
***** if anyone would like to send details to the secretary she will be happy to collate them and send on to him on a weekly (?) basis *****
6. Youths don't like having only one entrance/exit so if we can block the back exit gate/fence it would help, he will speak to the parish council about the possibility of doing this, eg a tall fence – over 6 feet, prickly shrubs/hedging
7. Fin said it's about becoming 'smart' by making it less of an attractive place to congregate/visit
8. Fin has called at the house adjacent to the allotments to ask if they've seen anything but had no response
9. Rather than try to 'scare' youths with the crimes they could be charged with – which he said they know anyway - Fin said the police prefer to try to engage with young people in order to raise awareness of the impact of their bad behaviour on those affected
10. They can issue community protection orders/ASBOs
11. Fin didn't recommend cameras due to human rights issues
12. If we did want to install something we would have to run it passed the Information Commissioners Office eg a fake camera with a sign saying 'you're being watched'
13. Anything like barbed wire etc might get us into trouble, would need to check with the authorities(?)
14. We could install a fence 2 feet inside our perimeter with barbed wire/thorny plants so that people walking along the path at the end of the plots wouldn't be walking directly next to it eg small children
15. Fin highlighted that his mobile number is not for reporting crimes – he said someone had reported a crime by leaving him a voicemail which was obviously useless when he didn't listen to it straight away.
16. We should use 999 if a crime is in progress
17. We should use 101 if a crime has already happened

PC Fin's details are:

PC 1416 Finbar SIMMONS

Beat Manager Frampton Cotterell, Coalpit Heath & Yate Business Parks.

Avon and Somerset Constabulary

Chipping Sodbury Police Station, 32 High Street, Chipping Sodbury, BS37 6AH

☎ **General Enquires:** 101 (Non-Emergencies Only)

☎ **Desk:** 01278 645 480 ☎ **Internal:** 45480 ☎ **mobile:** 07889 655 874

✉ **Email:** finbar.simmons@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Next Community Engagement Forum (CEF) – Tuesday 13th November 2018 at 7:30pm at the Greenfield Centre Winterbourne.