

Hempland Lane Allotment Association AGM held on Monday 22nd January 2018 at Heworth Golf Club. As well as the meeting the Association provided a buffet.

1/ Chairpersons welcome:-

Gayle welcomed everybody to the meeting & hoped everyone was enjoying the excellent buffet provided.

Gayle opened the meeting at 20:00. It is an opportunity this evening for you to renew your Association memberships, still only £5 per year. When completing the membership forms would people please be clear with their e-mail addresses if they have one, thank you. Gayle thanked all the committee & Pam for providing tonight's lovely buffet.

It has been a successful year with a lot of progress during 2017. The Summer Fayre is gaining in popularity & the numbers attending are on the increase. Our first attempt at an Autumn Fayre went very well, thanks to Nigel (Plot66) for his sponsorship. And thanks to all those who also helped with the strimming w/e where we carry out essential work in the Wildlife Area.

Also what has made a big difference is our procurement of the Pay Back Team who have been helping us on our site since the end of August. They have been with us every Sunday bar one from 09:30-15:30, the numbers have varied from 2/4, 7/8 & some weeks up to 16! Gayle indicated that there is a Laptop circulating the meeting with a Power Point presentation of all the work the Pay Back Team have completed in the last three months.

Gayle emphasised we need to keep them busy so you if you have jobs you would like help with or actually completing let Gayle know. There is a sheet on the table for you to add jobs on with your name and plot number.

2/Apologies for absence were received from:-

Jood Sutton (Plot2A), Ken Barley (Plot74), Elizabeth Parry (Plot13B), Stephen Parry (Plot13B), Anne-Marie Knowles(Plot16), David Knowles(Plot16), Alan Henderson (Plot47), Martin Calpin (Plot60B), Amy Johnson (Plot63B), Dave Ray (Plot 85), Lorna El Khatib (Plot116), Ghassan El Khatib (Plot116), Ellen Bradbury (Plot9).

Present were:- Lisa Maunder-Wood (Plot95), Colin Birtwistle (Plot5A), Nick Mansell (Plot22), Gerry Agar (Plot39), Dave Norfolk (Plot24A), Frank Jackson (Plot77), Lena Macpherson (Plot3), Nicola Garratt (Plot3), Phil Atwell (Plot4A), Eleanor Sheiy (Plot4A), Jill Bosswell (AM), Rachel Adamson (AM), Andy Normandale (Plot99), George Hughes (Plot108), Allan Stock (Plot113A), Robin Gomersall (Plot69A), Carol Marples (Plot40), Alan Marples (Plot40), Elice Wadsworth (Plot104A), David Wadsworth (Plot104A),

Angela Ekers (Plot75B), Karen Coulthard (Plot75B), Diana Quinn (Plot18), Audrey Brown (Plot18), Albert Lawrence (Plot62), Lisa Tindale (Plot59B), Pamela Williams (Plot65), Nigel Collinson (Plot66), Julian Ayres (Plot43B), Lorraine Wood (Plot64), Dave Wood (Plot64), Kevin Holland (Plot44), Daphne Brinklow (Plot14), David Brinklow (Plot14), John Page (Plot15), Jenny Page (Plot15), David Mothersdale (Plot92A), John Bromley (Plot21A), Kath Starkey (Plot71), Peter Munro (Plot73), Karen Munro (Plot72), Phil Copley (Plot89) (only briefly at meeting), Gayle Enion-Farrington (Plot34), Mary Whitehouse (Plot46), Moira Grainger (Plot93A), Sheila Grainger (Plot70), Elaine Kenyon (Plot33A), Jean Pulleyn (Plot81) & Tony Chalcraft (YACIO) Chairperson.

### 3/ Minutes of the 2017 AGM

The minutes of last year's AGM previously been circulated. As the minutes had been circulated & several items had "moved on" since last year the minutes were approved unanimously.

### 4/ Matters Arising

Some of the matters from the minutes revolved around Daren Lovatt and the Council. There was a large element of uncertainty at our last AGM of what the position of the running of the allotments would be. As this has now all been resolved, see under YACIO presentation later in the meeting.

### 5/ Treasurer's Report (David Brinklow)

## **HEMPLAND LANE – HEWORTH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**

### **Statement of Income and Expenditure 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

Balance brought forward £5506.18

Income		Expenditure	
Membership	585.00	Shop stock	667.34
Donations	127.93	Insurance	176.76
Shop	1694.56	Stationery	69.36
Tea/Coffee	854.01	Padlocks & keys	159.89
Keys	144.00	Manure	100.00
Summer fete	242.67	NSALG membership	306.00
Kings Seeds	581.04	Kings Seeds	638.72

Sleeper donations	22.00	Summer fete	56.55
Gates grant	2500.00	Easy Access Beds	1231.85
Gate sale	40.00	Gates	1560.00
Hempland School fete	106.40	Chippings bay	867.53
Autumn show	15.75	Website	74.39
		Tea/coffee	102.91
		Materials	648.16
		AGM	30.00
		Barbecue	58.50
Total Income	£6913.36	Total Expenditure	£6747.96
Balance as at 31.12.2017	£5671.58		

### Treasurer's Report

Both income and expenditure increased again in 2017. A grant from City of York Council of £2500 was used to replace the gates to the site to make them more useable and to complete some fencing repairs. Receipts from tea/coffee sales were put towards easy access bed construction, we hope to continue their replacement in 2018. We have spent a significant sum on the construction of a bay to contain wood chip which is delivered free to the site and providing materials for the very successful Community Programme is also a charge on our bank balance.

We are still being charged £100 per year for the delivery of horse manure so donations for collecting this are more important than ever, it was pleasing to see that donations this year have covered the costs. Once again the Kings Seed order this year was impressive. Although the income and expenditure on this item do not appear to balance, the expenditure includes the cost of seeds ordered for the shop so the Association makes a significant surplus on this order.

All things considered the accounts seem to be healthy.

David Brinklow, Association Treasurer     January 2018

### 6/Membership Secretaries Report 22/1/2018 (Nigel Collinson)

The Membership for our Association as at 31/12/17 was:-

1 HLM (Gerry Agar)

102 Plot Holder Members

12 Associate Members – a total of 115

Our membership increased from 97 in 2015 to 107 in 2016 to 115 in 2017, very encouraging.

Once again many thanks to all those plot holders & also the associate members who supported us by paying their £5 Association Membership fees. I am sure your £5 very well spent if for no other reason than to access the very keen prices of our shop stock! We really appreciate your ongoing support for our shop on a Sunday morning & also during the last year your support for the Sunday morning tea/coffee & cakes! This includes a big thank you for all the support of all our “Dog Walking” friends.

We have had a good level of “donations” for manure, chippings & more recently for some of the pallets, thank you.

Here`s hoping all our existing plot holders continue to support us and of course we will welcome all new plot holders into our Association. Finally, once again many thanks to those who have purchased items from the shop via myself when the shop as such as not been open, I am always happy to help Nigel.

As in 2017 we have a good choice of Kings Seeds available again this year. As a bit of a bonus we will also have a selection of Mr Fothergills & DT Browns seeds. These are already available so check our stock before rushing off to the Garden Centres!

My personal thanks go to Pam (Plot65) for all her efforts with the cakes that are donated on a Sunday morning & have proved a fabulous fundraiser. Thanks also to Jean for Sunday morning “service with a smile” much appreciated!

Nigel (Plot 66)

7/ Tony Chalcraft (YACIO Chairperson) York Allotments Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Gayle introduced Tony to the meeting & thanked him for taking the time to come along & give us an overview. Tony thanked us for the invite & said he would start with a brief review of how we have arrived where we are today.

The City of York Council indicated about two years ago that if felt as “allotments” were making a lose something had to be done. It was either a change or rents would possibly have to rise dramatically & allotments in York could end up in a bad situation. The rents in York are already considerably higher than other parts of the country.

There were concerns that there would be a continuing depletion in services provided to allotment sites & plot holders. After many meetings with the City of York Council a Charity was set up (YACIO) & this has now been registered with The Charity Commission, itself not a speedy process. The Charity’s Constitution, which has been ratified by the Charity Commission, proposes that there can be up to nine trustees

who can hold a post for up to three years before being put before an Annual General Meeting for re-election or otherwise.

The advantage of being run by a charity is it makes fundraising more accessible. Currently YACIO has five Trustees who are Tony Chalcraft (Carr Lane) – Chairperson, Colin Smith (Green Lane) – Secretary, Lisa Turner (Wiggington Terrace) – Treasurer, Simon Wild (Low Moor) – Trustee and Adam Myers (Low Moor) – Trustee. The above Trustees are all plot holders on the sites mentioned.

To begin the process, five trustees (drawn from allotment plot holders) volunteered to put time aside and build a business plan which offers an alternative management structure to that provided by the City of York Council. The trustees have taken advice from a number of sources and have agreed to take up office for a period of up to eighteen months during which time the first Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held. All members of the charity who are allotment holders will be entitled to attend the AGM and cast a vote on any issues that arise. This will include nominating new trustees or re-electing current trustees. The trustees will have responsibility for managing all of the City of York allotment sites but be accountable to members through any resolutions passed at AGMs.

<http://yorkallotments.org/>

YACIO have appointed Anna Pawlow who is a “Self-employed” Administrator & a plot holder in Acomb to basically run the day to day organisation. The computer system has now been handed over by the council. Bills have just been despatched in the last week using the computer package. Tony advised there are some errors on the database but hopefully as the YACIO Tenancy agreements are returned by plot holders these should be rectified!

The Site Secretaries role will continue very much as before & YACIO will rely on a lot of contact with them. A contractor has already been appointed to deal with hedge & grass cutting on all the sites. Grass cutting up to six times annually which is most likely more often than the council provided.

Jean Pulleyn (Plot81) thanked Tony & his fellow trustees for taking on the task of running the allotments. Albert Lawrence (Plot62) raised a concern that because Hempland site was well organised & with all the help we are currently getting from the Pay Back team we didn't want “neglecting” by the appointed contractor. Tony assured us this would not be the case. Gayle stated although the Pay Back team had cut a lot of the hedge sides they don't do the height & also are not allowed to use grass cutting equipment, so the contractor would still be required to undertake these tasks.

There was some discussion about “follow-up” procedures for untidy & unworked plots, this process still has to be finalised. On behalf of all at the meeting Gayle thanked Tony for his presentation & answers to various queries.

## 8/ Shop Report (Lorraine Wood)

As indicated in David's treasurer's report shop takings were £1694.56 which was up from £1400.73 in 2016 so an increase of £293.83. Lorraine thanked everybody for their continued support of the shop on a Sunday morning it is much appreciated. She also thanked those who had covered the days her & Dave were unable to run the shop.

The order from Gro Well has been placed & Lorraine pointed out we will be trying a few new products in 2018 as well as the usual tried & trusted ones. Some help may be required when the potatoes, onions & shallots arrive to be sorted. And as Nigel mentioned we will have a good selection of seeds available at very reasonable prices.

There is a sheet available tonight & it will be in the shop if there are any dates when you feel you could help in shop, just fill in your details, thank you.

## 9/ Election of Officials

Gayle pointed out that two committee members have "stood down", Anne-Marie Knowles (Plot16) who was thanked for her hard work whilst serving on the committee & Ray Walker who had only been co-opted on during the latter half of last year.

Chairperson: - Gayle Enion- Farrington re-elected, unanimously

Treasurer: - David Brinklow re-elected, unanimously

Membership Secretary: - Nigel Collinson re-elected, unanimously

Minutes Secretary: - Nigel Collinson re-elected, unanimously

Shop Manager: - Lorraine Wood re-elected, unanimously (with Dave Wood as Assistant Manager!)

Easy Access Plot Representative, this position was vacant and remained so at the meeting as there were no volunteers to take on this role. There were no plot holders from the Easy Access Plots at the meeting.

Committee, the following were re-elected:- Lisa Tindale, Ellen Bradbury, Julian Ayres & Jean Pulleyn.

Gayle thanked the following three new members to our committee who all volunteered & were not "press ganged!". Kevin Holland (Plot44), Moira Grainger (Plot93A) & Lisa Maunder-Wood (Plot95). We look forward to welcoming them to our first 2018 committee meeting on 19/2/18.

We had a short 10 minute "comfort break" before carrying on with the agenda.

## 10/ Easy Access Plots

Gayle pointed out the rebuilding of the beds had continued & 5 have now been fully refurbished but it is not a quick or a cheap process. The outside beds were sadly badly designed are basically unlettable because they are rotting & are deemed unsafe. The committee have been trying to carefully utilise these beds during 2017 to grow crops to sell in the shop to raise additional funds.

Although the refurbished beds look great the rental income from them is very small. We only have fairly minimal use of the beds at present as well so what do we do? The adjoining plot holders Robin Gommersall (Plot69A) & Nigel Collinson (Plot66) are in danger of the beds at the edge collapsing on to their plots. Nigel has concreted some posts in at his side to give the ailing fence some additional support.

It was agreed after some discussion that the outside beds could as a temporary measure be removed in 2018. This would mean removing all the old & rotting timber but the mammoth task would be removing the soil & cobbles. Some of the soil could be used to raise levels on some of the low plots on the site. This could be a project that could be undertaken by the Pay Back Team. This would make the area safer for the time being. New raised beds could be built as and when funds to buy materials were available. This could lead to grant applications possibly being made.

## 11/ Pay Back Team

Gayle had covered this area in depth in her introduction. She reiterated we will have their services but we do need to keep them busy.

They have really appreciated how they have been welcomed onto our site & the thanks they have received. Also the drinks, cakes, soup, BBQ & various other bits that have been given to them. They do feel appreciated & yes they have "done wrong" that's why they are with us but many have expressed a sense of achievement. They feel as if it is worthwhile & can see the fruits of their labours.

Through the summer months we may not get as much assistance but keep the jobs coming in for them. Apparently Bustardthorpe allotments have "cottoned on" & they are now doing some work on their site as well.

## 12/ Skips

We have not had a skip funded by the council in autumn 2017. It was felt a landfill skip would be of more use than a green skip. Nigel pointed out we need to tidy up around the shop before we re-open in February as it is a mess. It was proposed we fund a skip from our finances but David would contact YACIO (Tony had left the meeting by this time) first to see if there was any chance of them funding one.

Gayle said the other problem is the skip gets items dumped in it by non plot holders from outside, especially if we put notices up that one is being delivered.

#### 13/ Manure

As mentioned earlier we will again have to pay £100 for the delivery of our manure from Clancy's in 2018. As David had pointed out in his treasurers report the good thing was our "donations" in 2017 did cover the cost of our deliveries. So as usual all "donations" are always gratefully received. Nigel thanked those who have already made donations in 2018, it is much appreciated.

#### 14/ Site Security

Everybody has been very pleased with the refurbished gates at the shop entrance & near the Easy Access Beds.

Gayle said it was in everybody's interest to be vigilant on site. When you enter the site, if you could lock the gate behind you, effectively locking yourself in. If you are the last one off site no matter what time of day if you can ensure you lock the gates when you leave. It will help stop "joy riders" coming onto the site especially as we now have much wider footpaths. Obviously we want to try & stop "fly tipping" as well although most instances of this tend to be in the outside parking area which we have no control of.

CCTV is not an option apart from the notices we put up. Gerry (Plot39) asked why PCSO's never come round now? Gayle as our "Allotment Watch" representative said they do & if there are any incidents reported they get back to her to say when they have been round. If you need to report a crime of damage or theft you need to get an Incident number.

#### 15/ Shop & Tea/Coffee/Cake Rotas

A list is placed in the shop so if you would like to volunteer to help on a Sunday morning do feel free to do so. This has proved to be an excellent fund raiser on a Sunday morning so once again thanks to all for your support & our "Dog Walking" friends, some who have come virtually every Sunday.

Nigel reported he has ordered a new supply of cups ready for the off in February, just keep bringing the sun with you on a Sunday morning!!!

#### 16/ Autumn Show 2018

After the success of our initial autumn show last year we have already provisionally booked Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2018 for this year's show.

Again the emphasis would be on "fun" & getting children involved as much as possible. Mary (Plot 46) asked if the schedule of classes could be made available as early as possible so plot holders would know what to grow if they wanted to enter.

This will be on the agenda for our first committee meeting so we can arrange this as requested.

17/ AOB

Gayle indicated our Website had recently been updated & the information about YACIO is now on there as is the Pay Back Team progress information & pictures. There is also a link to ensure if you unsubscribed from our newsletter in error you can re-subscribe.

Lorraine stated the new shop stock should be with us by mid February. We need to have a good tidy up in and around the shop before we reopen. In the meantime if anybody wanted anything from the shop including seeds just see Nigel on Plot 66.

Albert Lawrence (Plot62) on behalf of the meeting offered a big vote of thanks to Gayle, Nigel, Pam, Dave, Lorraine, Dave & Daphne & the other committee members for all their hard work during 2017 we all appreciate it!

John (Plot15) asked if there was any possibility in us getting a further delivery of road planning's? Several of the paths are at present once again boggy & it is difficult walking let alone pushing wheelbarrow.

**AP** Gayle to contact local contractors to see what the possibilities & costs are.

With that Gayle thanked everybody for their attendance at what has been an excellent meeting & buffet.

Nigel Collinson (Plot66) Minutes Secretary