

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Allotment Annual General Meeting held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on- Tees, on Tuesday 22nd November starting at 7.15pm.

Those present: Graham Wylie (Chairman), Tony Sayers, Janine Forster, Richard Lawler, George Lawman, Bryan Cooper, Maureen Powles, John Middlemass, Bob Sterling, Lynn Wylie.

Also attending: Peter Allan (Parish Clerk) and Margaret Williams Chair HPC).

1. The Chairman opened the meeting welcoming the committee, and allotment holders.
2. **Apologies for Absence** None
3. The Minutes for the AGM dated 27th November 2015 and Allotment Meeting dated 9th June 2016 were accepted by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

4. Financial Report

The Parish Clerk presented the Financial Report for the 12 months to 31st October 2016.

Repairs to gate at Strait Lane	340.00
Grass Cutting at Strait Lane	220.00
Water Charges	102.55
Skip Hire at Strait Lane	190.00
Total expenditure	<u>£852.55</u>
Total Revenue 37 plots @ £15	<u>£855.00</u>

Tony Sayers said that an invoice will be coming for the grass cutting at the Grange allotments, amounting to 6 months at £20, total £120. This will be added to the 2015-16 accounts.

5. Election of the Chairman.

Two candidates had been proposed and Seconded, Bryan Cooper and Graham Wylie. At the meeting, Bryan Cooper announced that he would prefer to stand down, so Graham Wylie was duly re-elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

George Lawman expressed his view that it would have been better if a non-Parish Councillor had been elected, but as no other names had come forward, this was not possible.

The Parish Clerk expressed his praise and thanks for the work Graham had done during the last 12 months, and welcomed him back as Chairman.

6. Election of the Allotment Committee.

Tony Sayers was re-elected as the representative for the Grange allotments.

Maureen Powles and Bryan Cooper were elected as the two additional representatives for the Strait Lane allotments, in addition to Graham Wylie who represents the Strait Lane allotments.

Two Parish Council representatives will make the Allotment Committee. These are currently Richard Lawley and Janine Forster.

7. Allotment Register

The Clerk reported that all the allotments have been assigned, and that all the rents for the year 2016 have been received.

8. Waiting List

The Clerk reported that the Waiting List status was as follows:-

Hurworth Grange There are seven people on the waiting list, some dating back to 2013. There has been no movement in the last twelve months, and for the time being no more names will be accepted.

Strait Lane There are eleven names on the Waiting list. It was agreed that one name who had not responded to the allocation of a plot would be removed. It is expected that a few plots will become available in January, as per the normal trend.

9. Allotment Rent for 2017.

The Chair confirmed that the rent for 2017 will remain at £15, which included free water.

10. Allotment Association Report

George Lawman said that there is nothing to report.

11. Allotment Upkeep.

Tony Sayers reported that all the plots at the Grange are in good order.

Graham Wylie reported that one plot is being neglected, and it was agreed that the person will be asked to address the problem.

The Chair proposed that a table should be placed near the allotments, where excess produce can be taken by the public, rather than have wastage of good food; this was agreed.

It was also agreed that delivering produce to the Food Bank has proved difficult and this will not be pursued.

12. Allotment Sharing Scheme.

George Lawman related the benefits of implementing a scheme which allows persons, recommended by their doctor, to get exercise and fresh air by helping on an allotment. The meeting embraced this suggestion, and one of the committee will discuss this with the Hurworth Doctors, and get their views, with the intention of implementing the scheme. Allotment holders will need to co-operate in sharing their plots or working with these visitors.

This will be reported in an article in the next Parish Chronicle.

13. Allotment Rules and Procedures.

At the request of the Parish Clerk, it was agreed that the formal Procedures and Allotment Rules, dated 2011, should be reviewed. Several anomalies had emerged, and clarification is required. This includes Rule 14, regarding fires at allotments.

14. Requirements for 2017.

- a. Grange allotments would like another notice board. Agreed.
- b. Strait Lane require a new notice board. Agreed.

15. Any Other Business.

Mr Sterling raised the question of the coping stones at the Grange allotments. The status of the wall has been instead by B Green and Mr Middlemass reported that the coping stones have been replaced by concrete blocks and that the wall is secure. The cost of replacing the coping stones would be very high, and not warranted, as the wall is sound and safe.

It was agreed that Peter Foster will be asked to deliver a load of wood chippings to Strait Lane, and the Chair will make arrangements to rejuvenate the pathway around the allotment. George Lawman stressed that this is really a DBC duty, as is the hedge trimming. All agreed, but volunteers were pleased to assist.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:15pm