

W.V.A.A. A.G.M. 12th February 2020 Minutes

1. Introductions.

- a) Committee - *John White* Treasurer, *Jim Wright* Acting Secretary, and *Sarah Cole* Chair.
- b) Social Committee Chair- *Andrea Watson*.
- c) New members present *Robert Hindmarsh*,
- d) Apologies- *Jayne Smith*, *James Gannon*, *Lynne Warner*, *Lucie Broadhurst*, *Janette Hinchcliffe*.

2. Last year's minutes were shown to members and made available to read in detail.

By show of hands all members were happy that the minutes, were a true reflection of last year's A.G.M.

3. Reports;

- a) Chair's report (see attachment)
- b) Treasurer's report (see attachment)
- c) Social Committee report

As no events had taken place, rather than a prepared report, the Social Chair asked for feedback on whether or not members were still interested in events. The secretary of the committee feedback that he had received a lot of feedback from members who were clear in that they missed the events and wished them to continue in the future.

An overwhelming majority of members agreed, whilst it was acknowledged by all, that the events took a lot of organising and that obstacles were in place (weather, no fire pit, insurance liability) which made events harder to facilitate. It was well worth the effort to do something and help would be made available if the social committee required it.

The Social Committee than asked for ideas of possible future events. A plant swap day was very well received and a more casual ad-lib come across with a few drinks day was popular* (Clearly all these are now at the mercy of the recent national crisis)

The Social Committee voiced concerns that they felt undervalued and unappreciated - and said that the WVAA committee had added to that feeling.

Both the Chair and the Secretary, of the WVAA whole hearty apologised on behalf of the committee if their actions personally or as a committee had in anyway added to that feeling and made it clear that it was never the intention of the WVAA Committee to make any member, let alone the social Committee as a whole, feel that way.

The apology was accepted in good faith and both committees said they looked forward to working with the other over the coming year.

4. Elections.

Dan Green volunteered to become a committee member.

By show of hands all members were happy with this.

All committee members and job roles were up for re-election. As no one came forward for any of the roles available, all the committee members agreed to continue in their respective roles for another two year term.

By show of hands all members were happy with this.

5. The chair explained the format of the upcoming items the committee wished to ask the members to vote on.

The format was as follows;

- a) Proposals to be made by the Committee explaining the benefits, costs potential objections and negative points.
- b) Questions from the floor.
- c) Chair calls for a vote by show of hands.

Item will be passed, rejected or amended. We move onto the next voting item.

6. Votes:

- a) **To allow non-residents of Whitley to become members of the WVAA. Whilst Whitley residents to have priority on any future waiting list.**

The committee feel that the cost, both in time and money of keeping empty allotments in a rentable conditions, was too high and unmanageable with limited resources. We believe our resource are better spent in the communal areas and helping members improve their plots.

We believe that it is a benefit to all members to have a full allotment, both in terms of monies raised and improvement of plots. A small waiting list would be the ideal situation so that no plot grows wild.

This would also allow us greater flexibility if a member was to leave the village but still wanted to keep their allotment on.

We understand that some members would like to keep the allotment as Whitley villagers only, as it was Whitley resident's that indirectly paid for the allotment and they are rightly proud of the sense of community.

Concerns were raised about an increase in cars, with members from outside of Whitley undoubtedly having to travel in cars. Members raised the worry that this would restrict their access to the site and ability to manage their plot and that ultimately this would mean them giving up their plot.

Members also asked for clarity on which areas would be allowed to join.

Taking on board the feedback from the floor, the following amendment was made to the proposal:

A one year trial to allow nearby (Great Heck, Balne, Eggborough, Kellington, Hensall, Beal and Cridling Stubbs) Non-residents (of Whitley) to become members of the WVAA; Whilst Whitley residents to have priority on any future waiting list.

By show of hands the proposal was agreed by majority 9 votes for 2 against.

b) To charge half rent to new members joining after October.

The committee would like to charge half rent to anyone joining after October ie the growing season. It is our hope that this will encourage potential renters to come forward, who may have been put off by paying full rent for ground they couldn't use the rest of the year. By not putting renters off we hope that the plots will be taken quicker and kept in better conditions. We also feel that some payment is better than no payment as it shows a commitment from the member. Currently this is down to committee discretion.

By putting this rule in place it removes any future discretion that the committee may like to use. i.e; if someone was to join in January/ February we may not have charged them at all. Equally some members believe that new members should have to pay full fees no matter the time of joining.

By show of hands the proposal was agreed by everyone.

c) To start a one year trial of the benefits of being a member of the 'National Allotment Society'.

John explained the possible benefits of joining and supporting a national body (leaflets attached)

The cost is an additional £75.

By show of hands the proposal was agreed by everyone.

d) Review of the one year trial of green bins: To Continue for another year (£125) expand to more bins (£45per extra bin) or stop

Considering that the bins have been filled up every single week, we think it's fair to say that they have been well used and probably justifies an extra bin. Looking at the material in the bin, very little of it was compostable in cold composting. Eg. Perennial weeds, brassicas, lots of hard cuttings. Hence if it wasn't in the bin, it would probably be dumped in a corner of an allotment plot.

On the other hand, the cost is extremely expensive and would be much cheaper if people took their own rubbish home. Do bins discourage composting?

By vocal discussion it was agreed the majority of members felt the same amount of bins as last year was the correct volume.

By show of hands the proposal to continue for another year was agreed by everyone.

e) **To continue the trial to go as paperless as possible, to reduce stationery cost.**

The cost of stationery last year was £111, unless we reduce the amount of printing this cost will only increase each year.

We understand that not everyone reads their E-mails regularly and quickly.

Some members thought the secretary could reduce printing even more (feedback taken on board)

Vocally everyone seemed very supportive both in terms of cost reduction and considering environmental reasons.

By show of hands the trial will continue.

7. AOB