

Moor Pool Allotment Association (MPAA)

Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 14th April 2018

Venue: Lower Hall

Time: 10:30am

MINUTES

1. Welcome and opening remarks by the Chair of the interim MPAA Committee

Rob Sutton (RS), the Chair of the interim MPAA Committee, welcomed those attending and introduced the other members of the committee. He then noted that the meeting would be organised into two distinct parts, as shown on the Agenda: An open session, followed by an interval, and then a session for all those who had applied for membership of the Association (with either full or associate membership).

2. Update on the work of the interim Committee

RS explained that the interim committee had been working closely with Barbara Nomikos, Rachel West and the MPHT over the past few months. The aims had been to assist, where possible, with the take-up of allotments on the Estate; to represent the interests of those now holding leases for allotments; and to work with the Trust vis-à-vis restoration of the allotments. There is a good deal of work to be done in this area, more than the Trust can handle, so assistance is needed from groups such as the MPAA. The MPAA is attempting to establish working parties of volunteers who can take this work forward. A few areas have been identified for action. RS also indicated that a leaflet about the Moor Pool allotments had been distributed to residents. Copies will also be available at the Moor Pool Festival. Digital forms of communication are also being used to disseminate information.

Finally, RS drew attention to the proposed Allotment Support Area (ASA) and the work anticipated on the Builders' Yard. Funding had been allocated to MPHT for this and the MPAA would be working in synergy with the Trust in taking the programme forward.

The update by RS was followed by comments from Committee members and by a general discussion with all those present.

3. Update on the MPAA Constitution

Turning to the Constitution of the MPAA, RS noted that this document was needed for two reasons: To open a bank account and to be eligible for grants. The content of the Constitution would be discussed in the second half of the meeting.

4. The way forward: Types of membership and proposed subscriptions

He also mentioned a number of reasons for having a membership subscription and specified the roles of full and associate membership. This was followed by a brief discussion.

5. Other business

Barabara Nomikos (MPHT) made a brief announcement about upcoming changes in Data Protection, indicating how this affected communication and record-keeping within the Trust.

Rachel West (MPHT – Education) said a few words about an allotment project – *Growing together at Moor Pool* - that she is heading, under the auspices of Aging Better in Birmingham. This project is based on the education allotment behind the Builders' Yard. The aim is to create an intergenerational exchange around the growing of vegetables involving, for example, students from local schools, and older people who have knowledge about allotments, including those still involved in allotment work and those who are no longer able to do this. Participants meet every Wednesday, from 13:00 to 15:00 and refreshments are provided. Deal Paul – a horticulturalist – is being paid by BCC to do restoration work. Additional funds have also been received from the Grimmit Trust (£1,000).

Close of Open Session and enrolment of Full and Associate Members

During this interval, 18 of those present joined the MPAA and paid the full membership fee

Continuation of Agenda with further matters to be voted on by Full Members of the MPAA

6. Proposal by the interim Committee to adopt the MPAA Constitution

The Constitution was discussed, voted on and adopted

7. Proposal for subscription levels per annum

Full Membership	£5
Associate Membership	£3
Honorary Membership	£?

The subscriptions for full and associate membership were each proposed and seconded. All members present voted in favour of the proposed amounts.

8. Election of MPAA Committee members

All members of the interim committee were elected, as follows:

Rob Sutton (Chair), Nick Ball (Treasurer), Marilyn Martin-Jones (Secretary), Lynda Stobert, Ted Fearon, John Walter

9. Any other business

One member raised the issue of hedge-cutting on allotment boundaries. She also put forward a case for assistance for older allotment holders who could not lift heavy equipment.

The issue of the availability of tools for communal use (e.g. a petrol-driven strimmer, an electric wood chipper) and storage of such equipment was raised. It was pointed out that the Builders' Yard would be an ideal place to store such equipment for MPAA members