

Moor Pool Allotment Association (MPAA)

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, 7th April 2019

Venue: Lower Hall

Time: 10:30am

MINUTES

Committee members present: - Rob Sutton (Chair), Nick Ball (Treasurer), Lynda Stobert.

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

R.S. welcomed all those present and thanked them for attending. Since the last AGM, the Lower Hall floor has been replaced and refurbished by MPHT and makes the space ideal for meetings such as the Allotment Association one. R.S. introduced N.B. and L.S and thanked the Committee for their contribution over the past year.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Committee members Ted Fearon and Marilyn Martin-Jones (Secretary). Other apologies were made on behalf of John Phillips, Jill Howes and Sheldon Steele.

3. Minutes for 2018 AGM

Minutes for the last AGM were on the website and copies available in the Lower Hall. RS asked if these were acceptable or if there was anything arising from them. Proposed by Andrew Hackett.

4. Treasurer's update

A balance of £284.66 existed mainly through subscriptions. There had been two main outgoings for the year which were a banner for the Festival, and the website. N.B is currently covering the costs for the Allotment Facebook page himself. £242.04 was carried forward, with the addition of £90 subs and £105 from Heritage Festival stall sales. The current balance is £474.84.

Finding a bank which catered for a community group with small savings had proved difficult, but suggestions of the Co-op Bank and HSBC (mixed reviews) were received. Thanks were extended to those who had provided produce for the Allotment stall, or bought items from it.

5. Secretary update on allotment letting

Marilyn had been doing a great deal of work with Barbara, the Hall Manager, to move this forward. The Moor Pool Heritage Trust issues the leases and are responsible for making sure the paperwork is done. It is not an easy process however, as there remain some issues from the management under Grainger, waiting lists, allotment numbering, proper usage and other queries requiring resolution. The overall requirement is that those with allotments are still using them – they need to be used and kept in order. R.S's understanding was that there were sufficient allotments to meet the demand of the waiting list. There are some unpaid leases; some allotments are vacant and others are being used with no payment having been made. Questions raised by those present were:

Q. When should payments be made? A. September was believed to be the renewal date but needs confirmation.

Q. New leases were granted two years ago – are they still outstanding? A. Renewals will be settled out in due course.

A MPHT 'Master Map' shows 80 possible allotments; some are used by Moor Pool in Bloom and some to the school; some are designated A,B,C and D etc. Following on from Grainger/Banner arrangements there are still adjustments to be made to the map. It is also hoped that particularly big allotments can be split into smaller ones to encourage potential take-up. Generally, things are moving forward positively and progress is being made. It may be a good thing to have a person to contact on each block of allotments to feed back centrally.

6. Subscriptions

Subscriptions are being kept at the same levels (£5 for full and £3 for Associate) and it was decided that there would be no charge for an Honorary Membership. R.S asked if these levels were acceptable and subscriptions were approved by a show of hands. A question was asked about what the money is used for. The Members present were invited to put forward suggestions for ways in which they would like to see the funds used. Suggestions were:

Speakers. Information Boards and growing information. 'Sinking fund'. Members were also asked to consider ways funds might be raised as well.

7. Election of MPAA Committee Members

R.S indicated he would stand for another year. N.B, M.M-J, L.S and T.F. were all agreeable to be re-elected; J.W was stepping down. NB gave his take on the past year having joined the committee for the first time etc. A committee is important and different voices to input into meetings are appreciated. Kerry Bailey and Andrew Ball volunteered to join the Committee. They were elected by a show of hands. R.S thanked the Committee and the new members.

8. Any Other Business

Points and comments raised by Members present.

It was observed hedges were mentioned previously but not expanded upon. Where they are not tended, problems can ensue. West Pathway was mentioned in particular. Is there a general policy, and at what point do hedges become trees? Are they then subject to tree preservation orders? Answers were forthcoming from the floor. The Trust has undertaken a Tree Survey with various works carried out, and trees have number markers for reference. Permissions are needed because there is an overall Tree Preservation Order but there are some grey areas.

9. Closing Remarks

R.S presented an Honorary Membership and certificate to Steve Wright, in thanks and recognition of the work he has done in the past in organising the Educational visits to the Moor Pool Allotments by students at the Queen Alexandra College which were an inspiration for the ongoing educational engagement by the Trust and also the number of allotments he has looked after on the Estate. What he has done and his continual support to the Association is greatly appreciated. Following a round of applause for Steve, R.S thanked all for attending and concluded the meeting.