

Bohemia Walled Garden Association Annual General Meeting. 7th March 2015

Park Road Methodist Church, St Leonards on sea, TN37 6RA

Present were:- Sally Hick, Carolyn Eaves, Christine M'Baye, Mary Dawson, Guy Loder (ranger) Darren Windley, Sue Dean, Rosie Godwin, Alexander Wilberforce, Chris Stovold, Linda Bell, Lucy Regan, Susan Thomson, Nigel Sinden, Laura Heales, Zoe Holt, Kamila Breen, Lesley Bruce and Bob Hart.

Apologies:- Mr and Mrs Gerry Harris, Hugh Sullivan, Michel Guille, Mat Windley.

The Minutes of last year's A.G.M. were produced. Item 3 was clarified for Caroline by Guy. Minutes unanimously adopted and signed.

5, The Management Report was read by Sue and Mary. Proposed by Sue and seconded by Mary. Accepted.

6, Christine read the revised Business Plan for 2015. No questions were raised.

7, Christine provided the accounts for last year pointing out that although £1,000 had been received from the lottery grant, it had gone directly to the supplier of the marquee and therefore did not show on the accounts. Also that £500 out of the total of £3,483.01 was still ring-fenced for the toilet, to be paid when the work is finally completed.

Chris Stovold queried the heading 'deficit' in the accounts, which was not understood, but accepted as a standard format. Chris M'Baye will ask for clarification. The accounts were accepted after Linda proposed and Mary seconded.

It was also unanimously agreed to continue to use HVA for the independent examination of our accounts.

8. The current officers of the committee stood down.

9. Chris M'Baye thanked Bob for being the chairman since 2009. Bob felt it was time for a new chair, but he was prepared to continue as a member of the committee.

Mary Dawson was proposed by Chris and seconded by Sally as chair. This was unanimously agreed and Mary accepted the post for one year only.

10. Mary took over as chair of the meeting. The following were unanimously voted onto the committee:-

Treasurer – Chris M'Baye proposed by Darren, seconded by Carolyn

Secretary – Sue Thomson proposed by Chris M, seconded by Carolyn. Sue would like to hand over the plot secretary's part of the job in future, but there were no volunteers.

Minutes secretary – Sally Hick proposed by Bob, seconded by Alexander

Health and Safety officer – Darren Windley proposed by Bob seconded by Alexander

Sub-committee in charge of fund raising and events – Chris M, Mary, Carolyn Eaves.
Mary asked for more help with this committee.

Website – Bob Hart.

Committee member – Alexander Wilberforce proposed by Mary and seconded by Lesley

There are now 8 committee members and a sub-committee.

Thanks were expressed to the Ranger for all his help on the committee this year.

14. Plot fees have not changed since the garden's inception, but they raise almost £500 which covers all regular costs such as insurance.

Darren proposed that the rent should be raised by 50p per meter to £1.50. A vote was taken:- 9 for and 2 against.

Bob pointed out that it is not an allotment, but a garden for people to take an active part in its upkeep. Their labour was more valuable than the cash.

Although she was against raising the fee, Sue pointed out that it might enable the committee to pay for some works to be done rather than try and do it all in-house.

Sally felt that raising the fee was unnecessary and would prohibit some people who we would want to support. Indeed the garden was in danger of becoming too exclusively middle class.

Mary said that anyone in that position could be given a discretionary arrangement.

A further vote was taken and the majority agreed to raise the fee to £1.20 per metre for 2016.

No further motions were submitted and the meeting adjourned for coffee.

Heritage Grant Application. Guy reported that to construct an accurate assessment of costs for the application, a professional report on the state of the underpinning of the wall was necessary, but expensive. He has dug a large hole for Andy Brown, a specialist friend, to look at and report on free of charge. He was gratified to see that the wall was built on the natural sandstone and therefore the underpinning is safe. He now has the report for Amy Terry to see.

Play sessions. Rosie, from Treasure Tots Co-operative, has set up a popular 'kitchen' area for pre-school children to play with mud etc. She would like any old kitchen equipment like saucepans or large spoons etc. She also offered to help with supporting events for younger children during work days in the garden. She has donated £20 to the garden so far.

Rosie wondered if there might be some events for younger children scheduled between 4 and 6 p.m.

All present reported appreciation for the garden. It had helped people through bereavement, as well as providing learning experience and fun to the young. We unanimously agreed that it was a very special place to be and brought much pleasure to everyone.

Cllr. Sinden said that the BWGA had done a really good job and that the garden was an asset to the town. He felt that there must be a water main nearby and would see what he could find to give the garden access to water.

12 p.m. the meeting closed.