

THE FINCHLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the 75th Annual General Meeting
Held on 5th April 2016
in the Club House, Brent Way Tennis Club, London N3

Present: Claudine Fear (Chairman) and 20 members.

1. Apologies for absence: Rosa Baden-Powell, Janet Leifer, Jenny, Abelman, Jacky Hurst

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for 2015.

Error on page 2, this should read 'after the theft'.

3. Chairman's Report: See separate page

4. Treasurers Report: See separate page

Catherine Schmitt suggested that we will need a new potting shed in 2017. Claudine Fear said we will also need a new canopy for the polytunnel and the drive tarmac will need repairing.

Terry Burling suggested that we use concrete for these repairs.

Questions to Liz Thomson from Jack Sultoon:

What does Barnet Council contribute to the site?

Liz Thomson pointed out that we are entirely self sufficient.

Why has the electricity bill gone up?

There have been price increases and the Green room uses electricity. We also use heaters for the greenhouses.

Catherine Schmitt gave a vote of thanks for Liz Thomson's work as treasurer.

Judy Woollett proposed approval of Accounts

Maureen Gaythwaite seconded

5. Election of General Committee for 2016: Nominated,

June Brookes, Tony Ingram, Elaine Wright, Jo Cuttall, Janine Limberg, Judy Woollett, Christine Williams, Liz Thomson

Committee Approved.

6. Election of Chairman of General Committee:

Catherine Schmitt proposed Claudine Fear for Chairman.

Seconded by Valerie Marsh and Terry Burling.

7. Election of Allotments Committee: Nominated,

Phil Cuttall, Maureen Gaythwaite, June Brookes, Chris Ouseley, John Hale, Rosa Baden-Powell, Felicity Nock.

Committee Approved.

8. Notification of Other Appointments:

Louis Zweig appointed as apiary manager for 2016.

9. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts for 2016

It is unknown as to whether Michael Case will be the independent Examiner for 2016.

10. Any other Business:

Catherine Schmitt Q.

The instructions for the whereabouts of First Aid kits is not clear, can we have a First Aid helper to be responsible for this?

Claudine Fear asked if Nethercourt Avenue and Brent Way have kits.

They do not and it was agreed we must supply them.

Liz Thomson suggested each site has an accident book.

Claudine Fear suggested that Terry Burling's wife Violet might be interested in taking care of First Aid boxes.

Jack Sultoon Q.

His grandson came to the site and used the antiseptic hand wash in the compost loo, which unfortunately squirted in his eye.

Judy Woollett is to look into this.

Claudine Fear suggested it should be lower to avoid this problem for children and wheelchair users.

Liz Thomson suggested a health and safety audit and Claudine Fear thought we should be doing risk assessments.

Terry Burling mentioned that many of the site paths are unsafe.

Catherine thinks safety issues should be dealt with by the allotment committee.

Claudine Schmitt asked Felicity Nock if the excess soil from the fencing works could be used for filling in holes in paths.

Therese Jones suggested we supply a few walking sticks for those unsteady on their feet, particularly on open days.

John Hale: Q.

What is the plan for the areas next to the fence?

Felicity Nock replied that there should be a one metre path dividing the fence from each plot. Tony Ingram suggested we grass these paths.

Claudine Fear said that the plot holders nearest could put down wood chip, if they prefer.

This path is the responsibility of the adjacent plot holder and must be kept clear and walkable. If there is grass it must be mown.

Elain Wright said that they are unable to do this at Brent Way, because of a sharp slope near their fence.

Claudine Fear mentioned that we are considering replacing the fence up to Gordon Road, when we have received a quote.

John Hale: Q.

What is to be done about the overhanging trees along Dollis Road?

Claudine Fear said that Barnet Council do not show any inclination to deal with this; she will approach them again.

Therese Jones asked if we should ask our local councillor.

Claudine Fear thinks it will prove difficult as the Council has no funds.

Awards:

Catherine gave prizes to:

Judy Woollett for Outstanding Contribution to the Community by an Allotment Site (The Ted Green Prize) for the NGS Open Day (Gordon Road).

June Brookes for 1st Best Kept Large Allotment Site at Gordon Road

Janine Limberg for 2nd Best Kept Small Allotment Site at Nethercourt Avenue

Elain Wright for 3rd Best Kept Small Allotment Site at Brent Way.

Minutes taken by Christine Williams