

Minutes of AGM 12 November 2020

1. Welcome by the Chairman

I would to welcome you all to the SAA AGM I am sorry we cannot meet in person but Zoom is the best alternative. To make the meeting more manageable I will mute your computer and unmute when you wish to speak.

Apologies

Helen Hyde

2. Chairman's Report

As Chairman, I would like to thank the committee for their time and the hard work during the year and especially to Jacqui Post and now Helen Hyde for her work as secretary. Due to Corona Virus we were unable to meet as often as usual.

As we all know this has been an unusual year but speaking personally having the allotment to be able to get away from Corona virus for a few hours was a very welcome and important distraction

I would also like to thank the Council for their support during the year.

The Joint Inspections with the SAA rep, a Council member, Jane and the Groundsman have been very useful. The inspections are programmed for 4 per year so problems are brought up and the council makes decisions and the Groundsman is on hand to take instructions. The grassed shared areas have been well maintained and the surrounding hedges trimmed.

Theft from sheds. A number of sheds have been broken into during the year and expensive items stolen. The problem has mainly been at Watch Oak and Cherry Orchard but we all need to be aware of the problem and take precautions as much as possible. We purchased a CCTV camera which is being used at Watch Oak at present but can easily be loaned to other sites as the need arises.

This year's BBQ was cancelled due to Corona Virus but we hope to be able to hold it next year.

3 Treasurer's Report

The year has been quiet. The bbq was cancelled so no money spent. Trevor has brought CCTV camera to share round all the sites. The money for this has not be repaid to Trevor yet as the Bank are in the process of discontinuing Trust Accounts They will advise us of the standing of our account by letter soon.

4 Report from Site Representatives

Netherfield Hill

The allotment have been busy and hopefully no bad letters from the Council . There have been complaints about the deer, rabbits and pigeon. Of course the on going matter of no water and the building works starting .

Virgins Lane

The allotment is looking very good at present, A number of new gardeners have taken plots and seem very keen. Although hedge cutting has been noted at recent inspections it has not taken place yet.

Watch Oak

Helen Hyde took over as Watch Oak rep from Christine Coleman during the summer.

The past 12 months have been far more positive for Watch Oak plot holders.

We welcomed some new tenants in the Spring and have seen a building of community spirit, with, for the most part, a warm and friendly atmosphere. Our social went well and we now have a monthly news letter during the growing season.

Crop-wise, I think everybody was pretty happy, although strawberries were perhaps undersized!

As in previous years we have had 2 major problems:

1. the deer: they are still with us and cause considerable distress when they eat produce. We would urge BTC to ascertain who is responsible for the external fencing and make good any gaps etc.

2. Thefts from the allotments: these have decreased. In early Spring there seems to have been a targeted theft of garden tools but, thankfully, nothing since.

We are very grateful to SAA for our night camera (to date only deer have been recorded!) and will be v happy to lend it to other sites if thefts increase there.

I am very happy to say that there has been a flurry of new tenants who will arrive shortly and all plots except one are now taken. We look forward to meeting them all!"

Cherry Orchard

No Representative

5 Skip

The Council were obliged to postpone the skips from our usual time of Spring Bank Holiday until August . They were supposed to be delivered on the Friday but at Watch Oak and Virgins Lane they did not appear until the Tuesday. I understand this has been taken up with the Skip Hire Company.

6 BBQ Cancelled. But hopefully we can run it in 2021 Date will be notified

7 Election of Committee

The following were elected to the SAA Committee

Chairperson Trevor Henning

Secretary Helen Hyde

Treasurer Fern Burgess

Site Representative

Cherry Gardens : Steve Mellor

Watch Oak : Helen Hyde

Netherfield Hill : Fern Burgess

Virgins Lane :Trevor Henning

8 Any Other Business

Security of Allotments

TH stated that the CCTV camera installed at Watch Oak appears to be working well. So far it has identified that a herd of deer are visiting the allotment at night. It was suggested that the committee should consider the purchase of a similar camera for each site as the cost was just over £40 each including batteries and SD Card. The only advice was not to keep expensive equipment in huts.

Rats

Numerous complaints continue to be forthcoming from most sites due to rats present eating produce etc. It was decided to refer the matter to Battle Town Council for action especially as the likely cause of attracting rats was the presence of hens

Deer

The CCV identified that large numbers of deer are coming into Watch Oak at night. It is suggested Battle Town Council are advised to investigate means of keeping them out.

E-Mail addresses of members

The secretary does not have an up to date list of all members e-mail addresses. The Town Council are not permitted to disclose these without the express authority of each member. Notices will be placed on Notice Boards requesting members to give authority for the secretary to send information by e-mail.

TH thanked those members who were able to attend the Zoom AGM and the meeting concluded at 19.45.