

**Pett Village Allotments Association**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**Wednesday 28 March 2018**

**1. Present and apologies for absence**

The meeting was attended by 15 PVAA members. Apologies were received from Pam and Robert Lee, Judith Dean and Leigh Beek.

**2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 4 April 2017**

A copy of the minutes was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. These were approved.

**3. Annual statement of the PVAA Chair**

3.1 The number of site vacancies had recently fallen to 4 full and 4 half plots. The Chair invited the membership to take one of the pre-prepared laminated adverts to add to the committee's ongoing advertising campaign. Vacancies are also being advertised on the newly revived Pett on the Net website.

3.2 Working parties have been effective in maintaining the site: polythene has been moved from one vacant plot to the next to control weed growth; debris has been cleared up and disposed of; and Martin has sourced and supplied a number of old tyres which have been used successfully to anchor polythene sheeting.

3.3 The Parish Council has made a generous donation of £400 to fund the purchase of rabbit netting. This has been used to start reinforcing the perimeter fence, half of which is now repaired.

3.4 The Chair thanked Steve, Jackie and David for organising the Produce Stall at the Flower Show in July last year. Despite very bad weather, the stall's takings amounted to more than £100.

3.5 The annual BBQ, held as usual on the first Sunday of August, was attended by fewer people last year because of holiday and family commitments. It was proposed to change the date to Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> this year. The proposal was agreed by the membership.

3.6 The Chair outlined priorities for the coming year: completion of the perimeter fence repairs; working out a strategy for preventing the horses

in the adjoining field from damaging it ; working out a renewal of the site lease on the current terms for a further 10 years. The current lease expires in the Spring of 2020; working towards a further crown reduction of the trees along the Village Hall boundary.

3.7 Paul informed the membership that he has found someone to repair the leaking roof of the storage container.

3.8 The owner of the horses in the adjoining field has offered to arrange occasional deliveries of manure to the site. The Chair asked that members take only what is fair on an individual basis.

#### **4. Annual statement of the PVAA Treasurer**

4.1 A copy of the examined accounts for the year 2017-18 was distributed to members. Steve Townsend presented his annual statement with reference to these accounts. He noted that we began the year with funds of £319.42. Rents taken totalled £680 (down from £735 in 2016-7). The Parish Council were given £530 (down from £585 last year), leaving £150 for the PVAA. Steve pointed out that expenses were similar to the previous year. The balance carried forward to the current year is £333.42. This amount he considers a reasonably healthy average balance over the last few years. The accounts were agreed.

#### **5. Election of PVAA Committee Members**

5.1 All current members of the committee were willing to stand again and were unanimously re-elected: Paul Stapley (Chair), Steve Townsend (Treasurer), Libby Rothwell (Secretary), Christina Harvey, Martin Richardson and Graham Pilgrim.

5.2 . The Chair informed the membership that there was a vacancy for one more committee member and invited nominations. None were proposed at the meeting.

#### **6. A.O.B.**

6.1 A member reported damage to a compost bin by rats. Steve reported that there are 6 rat traps on site and that these are regularly checked and refilled with bait. He thanked David for his help in this ongoing process. Members were invited to contact Steve or Libby to inform them of any future sightings.

6.2 It was suggested by a member that we approach a resident who owns a trickle feed and battery which he may be willing to sell to us . This could be used to prevent damage to the fence by horses.

- 6.3 Libby asked about future deliveries of woodchip. Paul confirmed that this is an ongoing arrangement with a local tree surgeon.
- 6.4 It was noted that some wooden plot markers are missing. Paul agreed that their replacement would be on the agenda for future working parties and that the marker posts should be longer.
- 6.5 Paul confirmed that the storage container still needs to be cleared of abandoned items.
- 6.6 Paul thanked Bob, Mike and all those who have helped to make the site look tidier by taking rubbish to the tip.
- 6.7 Paul told the membership that the committee is considering the problem of cutting back tough perennial weeds on vacant plots, and that a brushcutter may be hired or purchased second hand for the PVAA.
- 6.8 A member asked about the policy on herbicide use. Paul confirmed that there is currently no ban but they are to be used with care. The committee favours the use of black polythene for weed control wherever possible.

## **7. Date of the next AGM**

It was agreed to fix a date for the end of March 2019.

As there was no further business, the meeting was concluded at 20.07.