

HRAA AGM 19-Oct-2010

Committee present

Richard Weightman	Stephen Mitchell
Jude Onger	Anne Holland
John McKinnie	Andie Smith
Ray Frodsham	
Hayley Weightman	
Julian Fyson	

MINUTES

Topic

1. Previous minutes

The minutes were accepted with only one alteration...

Item 4 should have read that a secure portacabin was being sought, not that it had been secured from St Ives Town Council (SITC).

No additional matters arose.

2. Chairman's report

Richard summarised the aims and achievements over the past year and thanked all those who had been involved in arranging things.

He also summarised the current position on liaison work with SITC.

There followed some discussion on aspirations for the next year.

Richard thanked Julia Wass for her work as a committee member in the last year, particularly her success in setting up the membership discount scheme with suppliers.

A question was raised about the trophies for past association shows. Richard confirmed HRAA now have possession of several trophies, only one of which could be used for this year's show. Some are tarnished or of no particular value, others engraved for categories not included in this year's show. However, there has been one offer to provide a new trophy for future shows.

3. Treasurer's report

Jude summarised the current financial position and answered questions. HRAA have a closing balance of £630.62 in the bank as opposed to an opening balance at the beginning of the year of £31.

The St Ives Flower and Produce Show incurred costs of £327.74 with income of £553.05. Although a profit of £225.31 was made HRAA need to maintain a healthy bank balance since next year's Show, being bigger, will present a risk to the HRAA funds. Increased amounts of sponsorship will be sought to reduce the risk.

MINUTES

Topic

4. **Membership fee for 2010/11**

John summarised the three alternatives of keeping the same fee, reducing the fee or having an increase. It was noted that some members may find it hard to fund the membership fee and this may prevent new allotment holders from joining, but it was also recognised this was offset by the membership discount scheme.

After much discussion a vote was taken in favour of a £1 increase in fees (now £5, with plot holders paying £7 to continue their membership of NSALG). This will enable the HRAA to have a better fund for speakers and continue to build funds to enable a grant application for improved facilities.

The committee agreed to look into concessionary rates for next year's fees.

5. **Amendments to constitution**

The amendments were approved with the following exceptions...

- The constitution needs to include what forms a quorum of the committee. Suitable wording may be available in the Friends of Holt Island constitution which is available on their web site.
- 9.12 The wording on expulsion of a member bringing HRAA into disrepute needed more detail on the decision and appeal processes. Allan (Lewis) will email a suggested wording to John

In addition item 10.4 was approved following a question raised by a member prior to the AGM, requiring the committee to give members seven days notification of any extraordinary expenditure over £200 so they may question or object.

6. **Results of the membership survey**

John summarised the responses of the survey, which indicated additional requirements for collective purchase and sale of compost and woodchips, seed and plant swaps and toilets.

There was some discussion on the implications of these requests, along with the provision of a communal hut. It was emphasised that the provision of such things would need to be organised by sub committees of members since the committee members were already fully occupied on existing commitments. It was agreed volunteers should be sought, the survey indicating that 70% of respondents were willing to help.

John noted that any future surveys should give respondents some acknowledgement back that they had successfully completed the survey, and allow respondents to equally score choices if they choose.

It was agreed that SITC should be asked to include a note in their

MINUTES

Topic

next mailing to allotment holders asking them to complete an on line survey to be prepared by John.

7. **Dogs on the allotment site**

Richard summarised the current position, and attendees considered problems being experienced and possible solutions.

After much discussion a vote was taken in favour of HRAA asking SITC to issue a letter when they next do a mailing to allotment holders...

- Highlighting that there has been an instance of aggressive canine behaviour and increasing issues of dogs off their leads wandering around the allotments and dog dirtying.
- Emphasising the rules within the allotment holders' contract that dogs should always be kept on leads and any dog dirt should be cleared up.
- If the problems continue there is a risk that dogs will be banned from the allotments as stated in the original contract.

John asked if members could email him with each and every incident of dog problems on the allotments, including the owners plot number if known, so HRAA could take action if the plot holder is an HRAA member and advise SITC if things are getting better or worse.

8. **Election of officers**

Richard, Jude and John were re-elected in their current roles. Julian was re-elected as a committee member.

There remains one committee member position vacant.

9. **Beekeeping**

Richard summarised a discussion with SITC about beekeeping on the allotment site. Agreed to go back to SITC recommending...

- Bee hives are not confined to a single plot, but owners are allowed to keep them unobtrusively on their own plot
- Plot holders wishing to keep bees must be trained by and be a member of a bee keeping association, which brings with it indemnity insurance
- Plot holders should also get the agreement of neighbours before proceeding with keeping bees

10. **AOB**

- The allotment plan should be put on the HRAA web site
- There has been some discussion with SITC about allotment fees for next year. Members agreed the fee should reflect to some extent the size of the plot leased.
- There have been problems with poor water pressure at some water tanks. It appears some pipes have limiters installed, and

MINUTES

Topic

there have been instances of blockages. Any members with such problems should report them to John and SITC will be asked to investigate.

- Can we get woodchips delivered from the housing development site on Houghton Road? Richard to contact Colin Saunderson.
 - It appears some plots are still unallocated or unworked (e.g. small plots on cemetery side of site) although there is still a waiting list. Enquires to be made of SITC.
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