Ashley Vale Allotment Association

Minutes from AGM

Sunday 13th April 2025

In attendance: Dave W, Jodi P, Liz E, Dave E, Dave F, Dave W, C Hope, Huga H, Tom I, Jonnie B, Carrie H, Edwin B, Ian P.

Apologies: None

Dave W chaired the meeting, Jodi P took minutes.

Dave welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Dave apologised for the committee being late in sending out email to invite people to AGM, it should have been 14 days advance notice but was only 12. It was noted that the facebook notice went up one month in advance. All present where ok with that and agreed that there was no malicious intent.

Dave presented maintenance achieved on site, document is below. Main focus this year has been improving paths, laying hedges and dealing with problematic trees.

Special thanks to Jo for organising and buying gravel to resurface path, Alan for keeping the yard tidy, Dave Walker for his work clearing small trees, Dave Fell for dismantling and disposing of overstuffed shed.

Jodi P has been working with the farm to run cooperate volunteer days to do unskilled maintenance tasks around the site. We also have two dates booked in for Claire Dinsdale to run corporate volunteer days liaising with Dave and Jodi, we hope to get a small donation from this that could be used to pay for a skip.

Jodi presented the finances, she has taken on this position last year and realised that no financial reports have been collated for 3 years, so she has rectified this and submitted records to the FCA Financial Conduct Authority records are publicly available at <https://mutuals.fca.org.uk/Search/Society/28993> this link has been shared with all plot holders with the AGM notice email. Jodi also brought the most recent financial records which shows 6 outgoing transactions totalling £763.79 for gravel, shed kit, apple press bag and printing. There are 3 incoming payment from the farm two allotment fees £633 and £651.54, plus £156 contribution for a skip. Finally, there was a donation of £750 from a relative of Maggie Moss.

Total income £2190.54, total expenditure £763.79

Jodi presented the idea of a Centenary book based on the information that Maggie gathered a few years ago. Using the donation that we received the committee has decided to commission Carrie Hitchcock to put together a book. Carrie is a long term plot holder and photojournalist who has published a book about the Yard and Boiling Wells lane. We will collect more stories from plot holders for this project using facebook, email, posters and leaflets on sheds. Carrie is setting up a crowd funder page. All agreed this was a lovely idea that they supported.

Legal obligations: The oldest standing member of the committee stood down and was re-elected. It was put to the vote and all agreed that we did not need a financial auditor.

 AGM 2025 Dave’s Report.

Infrastructure , maintenance & workshop.

Our priorities for 2024/25 were Paths, Hedges & Problem Trees.

Works Completed 2024/25

Paths

F1/2 main gate path - AVAA £220 + vols & corp vols c.15 person days

F4/5 Diagonal path - Donation from Joe Thompson + volunteer works c. 3 p.days

Hedges

F4/5 hedge - AVAA £200 + AVAA volunteer works c.7 psn days

Problem Trees

25 problem trees removed Bay Ash Willow Conifers & Hazel. £25 AVAA vols c. 6 p.days

Compost Loo

Underpinned & levelled, steps and handrail repaired £zero; AVAA vols c. 3 p. days

Wall Repair - f5 behind farm BCC works £ ,000s ??

Gates - 2 new locks BCC paid; various adjustments & resetting: BCC & AVAA Volunteers

Water - repairs to taps BCC & AVAA volunteers

Workshops - Hand tools & drill stand set up;, sharpening resources & training set up; open mornings for tool sharpening, risk analyses drafted.

Yard maintenance - Unseen tasks - thanks to Alan especially & others …. many p/days

Abandoned plots - clearance of undergrowth, plastics & stuff - AVAA & corp vols

Skips - 2 in yard c. AVAA c.£500 plus farm support - all inappropriate materials

Priorities for 2025/26 - over & above general maintenance.

Clear site of inappropriate & unstable plastics & glass;

Complete control of problem trees;

Workshops: expand workshop team; establish tool repair project, open more.

Educate plotholders on waste management issues.