

# GRAVEL PIT ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

www.gravelpitallotments.org.uk

## Minutes - AGM

Meeting held at 7.30 pm on 18<sup>th</sup> May at Yapham Village Hall

### **PRESENT**

Suzanne Allan (GPAA Chair)

Michael Atkin (GPAA Treasurer)

Andrew Hancock (GPAA Committee Member)

Denise Mitchell (GPAA Secretary and minute taker)

Steve Oxley (GPAA Committee Member)

Andrew Woodhall

Pat Bradley

Kit Blight

		Action
1.	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b> Accepted as a true record.	
2.	<b>Matters Arising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some work has been done on trees in Gravel Pit Field free of charge. Further work may require additional labour which may be charged.</li><li>• NSALG membership renewal due. £2.00 each. We need a minimum of 10 people to maintain our membership.</li><li>• Rent due to Parish Council (PC) 5<sup>th</sup> May. Increased to £50 this year. Suzanne to ask if we can defer as we are still not up and running.</li><li>• Also agreed to ask for a PC contribution to the cost of Planning Permission application - £340</li><li>• Hall hire for AGM £20. Previously PC have covered. Suzanne to see if this can be a standing arrangement. Otherwise Denise to write as previously.</li></ul>	Suzanne  Suzanne/D enise
3.	<b>Chairman's Report</b>  A difficult year but still achievements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Funding from the Big Lottery has been granted. A provisional agreement was received in November but conditional upon certain requirements</li></ul>	

	<p>being met. All now met except Planning Permission. When Planning agreement given we can start work on the field. It was also a condition that the award was not publicised until all the conditions had been met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair thanked committee and others for their help and hard work.</li> </ul>	
4.	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b> Michael had prepared a financial statement with copies for committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 grants of £250 each received from East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) – ring-fenced for raised beds and water butts.</li> <li>• Water connected. £89 invoice from Yorkshire Water received by Treasurer – wrong amount (should have been £0) and sent to wrong address (for PC). As compensation standing charge won't start until we start using water.</li> <li>• Rent for plots due June. So far rent donated by committee members as no plots yet available. Rent from tenants will be taken when plots ready and pro-rata payment charged.</li> <li>• More fundraising needed. Michael suggested another car boot sale. Possible bbq/picnic/quiz night in village hall.</li> <li>• Also suggested requesting funding from local businesses eg new Aldi.</li> </ul>	
5.	<p><b>Website</b> Andy had circulated a report before the meeting comparing the first two years of the site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 1 – 741 individual unique visitors. Year 2 – 648 individual unique visitors</li> <li>• Google ads raised 4p (2,750 page impressions). Pay out at £50.</li> <li>• Reduction in visitors probably due to lack of updates/changes on site in last 12 months. We need to keep it fresh and updated with lots of pictures so please send all pics of field to Andy.</li> <li>• Referrals mainly from searches for “allotements” on Google.</li> <li>• 25% Google searches for “Gravel Pit Field Allotments”</li> <li>• 25% links from other allotment sites etc</li> <li>• Amazon referrals £13.84. Reminder to visit our website first, click on Amazon icon before buying.</li> <li>• Average visit to site lasts 1 minute 19 seconds.</li> <li>• 77% of visitors this year are new</li> <li>• 1¾ pages per visit viewed</li> </ul>	All
6.	<p><b>Election of Officers</b> <u>Chair</u> Suzanne Allen. Proposed by Denise. Seconded by Michael. <u>Treasurer</u> Michael Atkin. Proposed by Suzanne. Seconded by Kit. <u>Secretary</u></p>	

	Denise Mitchell. Proposed by Suzanne. Seconded by Michael.	
7.	<p><b>Planning Permission</b></p> <p>Last hurdle for meeting conditions for Lottery funding. Council must give us an answer by 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2011 at the latest. PC applied on our behalf. Thanks to Steve for all his hard work on preparing the application and liaising with ERYC and PC.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lottery money – see earlier</li> <li>• ERYC grants – see earlier</li> <li>• Suggested more car boot sales – see earlier</li> </ul>	
9.	<p><b>Stakeholders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PC and ERYC. Keep them informed. Thank and acknowledge all who have helped.</li> <li>• Thank all those who have offered help/goods in kind on website.</li> </ul>	
10.	<p><b>Plan of Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan to start immediately planning and funding confirmed.</li> <li>• We need to have a representative at the field when work is being carried out. Mark Woodall suggested.</li> <li>• Lottery not very forthcoming about how money will be given. Assumption is that money will be released for each element at a time.</li> </ul> <p>Work to be carried out as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Widen gateway and clear overhang</li> <li>2. Put down hardcore for hardstanding (Steve to contact Streetscene/ERYC Highways)</li> <li>3. Lay topsoil</li> <li>4. Let topsoil settle. This will take about 1 month depending on the weather.</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible difficulty with big lorries tipping topsoil/turning circles etc</li> <li>• Environment Authority may need to attend</li> <li>• Possibly use tractor/trailer</li> <li>• Money in lottery funding for this</li> </ul>	
11.	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p><b>I.Beekeeping</b></p> <p>Andy has been in touch with local beekeeping associations. Beverley not very helpful. Harrogate and York agreed to visit us for an introduction to beekeeping – no charge except for petrol and refreshments.</p>	

Concerns raised about safety of bees in allotments eg hives being colonised by aggressive bees. Expert advice about placing and setting up hives should alleviate any safety concerns.

**2. Organic gardening methods course**

Provision in lottery funding for training. £50 for a day. To cover eg Crop varieties/layout of plot etc. All very interested. Would be open to public too so possible fund raising.

3. Some discussion about new allotments at Market Weighton

4. Steve has been in touch with ERYC. Coral Gladstone is officer in Council that can help us.

**5. Access**

Council contractor to make adoptable crossover for entrance to field.

**Next Meeting**

**Committee Meeting. 2:00 pm Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July, Denise's house.**