

Hereford Allotment & Leisure Gardeners

Annual General Meeting

Date: 18th March 2024

President:	John Rosser (JR)
Chairperson:	Pauline Shannon (PS)
Treasurer:	Val Simms (VS)
Lettings Secretary:	Derek Mumford (DM)
Site Rep Coordinator:	Malcolm Watkins (MW)
Secretary:	Tasha Bennett (TB)
Trustee:	Roy Matthews (RM)

Apologies: Sharon Baugh, Andrew Colby, Tony Geeson, Jo Sims, John Rosser, Maggie Setterfield, Mick Paine, Neville Hart.

22 members attended the meeting.

Chairperson: Pauline Shannon.

Previous minutes: Agreed with no matters arising.

PS welcomed all to the meeting.

President Address (JR):

I thank you for attending this Annual General Meeting.

I will leave the best information to others who are better and more able than I to give you an update on the Society.

As in previous years on your behalf, I would like to thank the Site Representatives, Committee members, Trustees and the plot holders who have offered help throughout the year.

Another year when everyone has put so much effort, time, and dedication to the management of the Allotment Society and all must be congratulated.

I look forward to this year and hope for the continued growth and improvement on all sites.

Chairperson (PS):

Welcome to the AGM 2024. I would like to start with saying thank you to our Trustees and Site representatives without whom, we couldn't look after the maintenance of the allotments. We are all volunteers; we don't get paid for the

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work we do to keep the allotments going. If you have time to help us, in even the smallest way, it would be most appreciated.

My report covers the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

Sam Perkins took on the role of Site Representative at Eign allotments early in the year but had to resign due to personal commitments – we thank him for his work. Chris Yapp has agreed to take on the role of Site Rep again and we are very grateful to him.

Tracy Carter resigned as Site Rep at Drybridge allotments and we thank her for her contribution. Drybridge allotments held their first seed swap a year ago and this was very successful. Helen Cooper-Bennett, the site rep at Drybridge welcomed local school children to the allotments to teach them about gardening, bugs and beasts – these visits are very popular and further visits will be happening this year.

Viv Webster stepped down as Site Rep at Corporation in December 2023 due to health reasons and we thank her for her contribution. Roly Brown stepped down at Westfaling allotments due to health reasons and we thank him for his work and contributions over the past few years. We wish them all well for the future.

Malcolm Watkin has taken on the role of Site Rep coordinator and will be first point of contact for site reps to ask for advice and support.

Installation of a composting toilet at Holmer will be completed shortly. There have been some initial problems at Rockfield with their composting toilet which are being resolved. Hotbins were installed at allotment sites late last year.

We held our annual competition which was judged in July and prizes were presented by the Mayor at the Town Hall in September.

We did apply for planning permission for allotments for a piece of land off Ross Road but unfortunately had to withdraw the application due to a surprising amount of objections received against the proposal. It was a good learning experience for me as I naively assumed, in the current climate, there would be no opposition to our plan. We are constantly seeking out new projects and we have some new allotment sites on the horizon – more details will be provided as they become available.

We also extend our thanks to Hereford City Council who provide us with a small grant to maintain the allotments and have been helpful with contributions towards capital costs.

And to finish, I have been Chair this year and I would like to extend my personal thanks to the site reps and the Trustees, all of whom have been very supportive of me during this time.

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Lettings Secretary (DM):

Average year on plot lettings, giving up and letters of concern. It would be helpful to everyone involved if tenants who are giving up plots could let us know in advance instead of waiting until they get next year's rent request. Thank you to all the site reps and Malcolm for the work they have done during the past year.

Still hoping to get at least 1 more site to help relieve the waiting lists.

Thanks to the trustees for the work they have carried out throughout the year.

Trustee Report (VS):

Shared at the AGM

Finance Report (VS):

Report emailed. Accounts formally accepted by all.

Appointment of Independent Examiners:

RJ Francis & Company will be used unless we can find someone more cost effective.

Election of Trustees:

Third of the Trustees have to stand down each year and are based on longest standing.

Malcolm Watkins
Pauline Shannon
Tasha Bennett

All confirmed OK and all agreed.

Members discussion topics / questions:

Bill Laws from Rockfield allotment expressed his 'deep concern' regarding why David Fletcher had resigned as site representative at Rockfield. Questions were raised by plot holders at Rockfield. They were unhappy with the way they perceived David and Sylvia Fletcher to have been treated. The Trustees advised they would respond to comments raised as soon as possible.

A new plot holder at Rockfield asked how the AGM is notified - advised by email. She said she has not received it. Also on notice boards and websites.

END OF MEETING