

ABERAERON ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION AGM
24TH NOVEMBER 2016
CADWGAN ARMS

Present: Neil Garod, Joan Birt, Steve, Paul and Helene, Alun Jones, Darren, Ian, Owain Davies, Meurig, Diana and Geoff

Apologies: Graham Thomas, Eldi, Tig, Jane,

A. Minutes AGM 2015

Diana read out the Minutes from the last AGM in 2015. Paul Watson proposed that they were accurate and this was seconded by Owain Davies.

B. Chairman's Report

Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Croeso/Welcome to this our 2016 Annual General Meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1. I feel that in many ways that this has been one of the better years we've had since our conception.

At the beginning of the year an enforcement order rid us of two contentious members, with a third member of that apostate group, relinquishing his plot and membership early in the year; the result has been one of restored harmony and increased activity within the site, and a general feeling of likeminded community is growing.

2. With the vacated plots, we were delighted to welcome a number of new members, namely these are: Geoff Hicks , Bleddyn and Eleri Jones, Alun Jones, Neil Garrod, as well as both Steve and Owain who now share plot 5.

Also, to our delight, we were able to offer an undesignated part of a plot to a young group supported by Mencap, who, amid a lot of chattering, and good banter, worked hard to restore an overgrown patch, giving it a new lease of productive life! It is wonderful to see disadvantaged youngsters taking such

pleasure in honest hard work and cultivation of crops. If anyone needs assistance at any-time, these young people are eager to help!

Most recently I'm informed that Darren Buckland has also just joined us.

An especial warm welcome to all of you, and might I wish you many happy years of production ahead. I look forward to developing our common interests together.

3. With the intention of developing good community spirit and relations, the committee decided to purchase a 'community shed' to this purpose. The building, as you are aware has been erected fairly centrally, for everyone's convenience, and it is hoped that it will be utilised as a social gathering point for cups of tea and a sandwich, and as a place where inclined members with surplus seeds or produce, can leave them for other another appreciative soul to utilise; or as a swap-shop? We intend to erect some shelves and a notice-board to convey messages to each-other (please, polite messages only!)

It is also hoped to build a small pergola to support the vine which is present, along with the creation of some herb beds, come early Spring. All help/suggestions or donation of plants, welcome!

4. The season as a whole has been up and down with much success and few dismal failures. Blight once again affected potatoes and tomatoes, whilst worms bored away at my surviving spuds, and caterpillars gorged once again upon my greens! Such is a gardener's lot! A big effort was made earlier in the year to clear the bank near the car-park of weeds and nettles, and I thank all of you who assisted in this continuous battle, particularly our President and Secretary, Diana who worked tirelessly to clear this eyesore! Unfortunately, as with all good intentions, our aim to have the bank levelled to widen the car-park and remove the cleared patch did not materialise, as indeed, neither did the mini-digger, requested!

5. As usual, some of us were not able to spend as much time as we would have wished tending to our plots, and some unfortunately were left to overgrow considerably. May I suggest that if any member is struggling, for whatever reason, to maintain their plot, they request help from within the

membership? I'm sure many of us would willingly lend a hand, and it benefits all, to keep overgrowth under control!

6. Many of you are aware that we (that is, the collective we -as opposed to Royal we) have accepted an invitation to have an 'open-day' sometime next year; it would be nice if we could all make a concerted effort for this occasion, and support it on the day. The Secretary will advise us upon dates and activities, as and when known.

7. Finally!

When we founded the allotments here in Aberaeron, I said that I would do anything to help its development-other than serve on any committee! After three difficult years as Chairman, I now know why I made that proclamation, but I am at a loss as to know why I went back on my resolve to lead a quiet life. The first two years were particularly draining because of issues created within the Association, dominating my life even at home. Mercifully, that is all behind us, and I feel the AAA is now once again set on an even keel. As such, I feel I can now step down without regret and hand over to a new hand at our helm. I feel it important that any club or association should in turn rotate responsibility, and that, new fresh eyes and energy can be more productive for the good of all. I ask each and every-one of you to consider shouldering, what should in future be a modest burden, and put your names forward for the executive positions being vacated.

I thank you all for your kindness and support over the years, and take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a productive New Year!

C) Treasure's Report (on request)

D) In 2017 it is intended to extend car parking by pushing manure forward and therefore leave

more space at the top. Brief reminder: all deliveries of manure or bark chippings are available to

all.

E) The Perennial Water Problem: Diana has emailed Neil Hinchcliffe at Estates to ask for one of

their drainage experts to come to the site and advise us of the way forward. Also asked him to clear the

land behind our site which belongs to the council. It was also suggested that Diana talks to Bleddyn

who having worked for the council in the right department has a lot of contacts who might be able to help

and/or advise.

F) Election of officers:

Helene Watson was proposed by Diana and seconded by Owain Davies for position of SECRETARY

Dai Lewis was proposed by Neil and seconded by Owain Davies for position of TREASURER

Diana was proposed by Meurig and seconded by Owain Davies for position of Chairman.

Thank you to Meurig , Diana and Owain for their work over the last three years. And a big thank you

to Helene and Dai for agreeing to accept roles on the committee.