

Leominster Allotment Association Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 10th May 2017, 7.00pm in the Town Council offices, Corn Square, Leominster.

Committee members present: Gill Murdoch (Chair), Cathy Fewlass, Steve Gallimore, Jane Lacey, Lesley Marsh, Viv Pearson, Ray Wall.

Others present: B Gray-Addyman, J Debbage, B Hirschmann, M Locock, C Loran, R Murdoch, A Smithells, D Wall, I & D Wilkins.

Apologies: J Braithwaite, S Morris, A Parsons, B Preece.

Minutes: Christine Conlon

Minutes Approval

The minutes from the previous A.G.M. meeting, 24th August 2016 were approved as a true record of last year's meeting and they were signed by the Gill Murdoch.

Opening matters

Leominster Allotment Association year – this now matches the financial year
i.e. 1st April – 31st March.

Chairman's Report – Gill Murdoch

- The Harvest Supper and Awards evening on 17/10/16 at Grange Court was very successful and included excellent food. We are looking forward to the next one in October.
- The mini-plots continue and thanks in particular go to Cathy Fewlass and Ray Wall. Any volunteers to help with this would be valued and welcome.
- The Community Shed has been painted, thanks again to Cathy, Ray and others.
- The visit to Bisley Community Composting scheme, 8/10/16, was useful and interesting.
- The trip to Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 18/3/17, was well supported.
- If there is adequate interest, more trips will be organised.
- A good working relationship was established with Town Council staff, and we thank them for their help.
- The Hedges have been trimmed, organised by the Town Council.
- Composting bins are in place and Julie Debbage (Town Council) has put up signs asking plot holders to deposit green waste only and to keep the area clean.
- The Town Council have contracted a different pest control company for the allotments.
- Smaller plots and quarter plots have been created.
- The LAA will have a stall at the Family Fun Day on the Grange, 10/6/17, to raise funds.
- It is hoped to have a BBQ this summer.
- There will be no other major fundraising during the year.
- There will be different Allotment Awards judges this year.
- Gill thanked the members of the committee for work done over the year.
- Gill also thanked Sue Morris for her care of the composting toilet.
- Finally, Gill thanked anyone else who has helped with the allotments.

Minutes Secretary report – Christine Conlon

- Since the last AGM in 2016, four general meetings have been held. The fifth meeting is to be held

immediately after this AGM.

- Normally, six meetings per year are held, but because the AGM has been moved forward, one meeting will be missed out.
- The LAA minutes are emailed to members of the committee. The main points from the minutes are then put into newsletter form and distributed to all Leominster Allotment Association members. So far, we have produced 2 newsletters in this LAA year.
- The main method used to communicate is by e-mail. Paper copies go to just 8 postal addresses, which is a decrease of 2 on last year and as such, is an improvement.
- The minutes and Newsletters are put onto the website, enabling public access. Also, paper copies are put into the Community shed, so the information is available for all to see, in one form or another.
- The Leominster Allotment Association now has its own e-mail address:
leominster.allotments@outlook.com
This email address can be used by anyone for comments and queries pertaining to the Leominster Allotment Association. These emails go to the Chair and Secretary to answer.
- Finally, thank you for your support over the last 9 months.

Website report – Gill Murdoch

- Chris Preece continues to update the LAA website, with Christine Conlon.
- If there are any pictures of the allotments, they can be added to the website.

Seed catalogue report – Gill Murdoch

- Kings Seeds catalogues continue to encourage many orders from members.

Treasurer's Report – Steve Gallimore

Leominster Allotment Association : for April 2016 to March 2017

Movements on the Lloyds Bank account ****4323

Bank statement at 1 April 2016	£1,016.55
Income	£1,646.26
Expenditure	-£1,513.96
Total to 31 March 2017	£1,148.85
Bank statement at 31 March 2017	£1,508.85
less cheque not presented	-£360.00
	(Birmingham Botanical Gardens trip, M&S Coaches)
Balance at bank	£1,148.85

Income			Expenditure		Gain
Membership	£270.00	54 members	NSALG affiliation	-£140.25	
			Insurance	-£130.56	
			Admin	-£75.00	
Seed orders	£512.25		Seed orders	-£445.76	£66.49
Town Council	£250.00		BBQ	-£160.00	£90.00
Balance: Harvest Supper	£11.01		Miscellaneous	-£45.39	
Refund re W Midlands NSALG meeting	£61.00		Costs re W Midlands NSALG meeting	-£41.00	
Birmingham Botanical Gardens Trip	£542.00		Birmingham Trip costs	-£476.00	£66.00
Total	£1,646.26			-£1,513.96	
Overall change on the year 2016/17:					£132.30

Notes for income items

Town Council is the contribution to celebrate 10 years of Ginhall Lane Allotments

Balance re Harvest Supper is income from raffle minus cost of gifts to Allotment judges and flowers to outgoing Chair

Notes for expenditure items

Admin is cost of postage, photocopying, and Web site hosting

Miscellaneous for this year is cost of insulation material for Community Shed plus costs of Plant Screen for Council composting

Petty Cash Account

Balance of Petty Cash £28.02 at 1 April 2016

15/7/2016	-£10.00	Gallimore refund deposit for Forbury Chapel re 6/8/16 meeting W Mids NSALG
24/8/2016	-£4.67	Balance to Cathy and Jane re BBQ sundries
9/11/2016	-£8.99	Ray Wall paint re Community Shed

Balance of Petty Cash £4.36 at 31 March 2017

Overall change on the year 2016/17	(Petty Cash account)	-£23.66
Overall change on the year 2016/17	both accounts	£108.64
Total financial assets of the Association	as at 31 March 2017	£1,153.21

Proposed increase in annual membership fees.

The current membership fee of £5 per annum has remained unchanged since the Allotment Association was formed in 2008.

The major expenditure elements for the Association are the annual affiliation fee to the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) and the annual insurance premium which covers Association members.

In 2008 these two items cost about £4 per member. Since 2008 there have been several increases in the NSALG affiliation fees and in the insurance premiums. At present these combined costs equate to £5.00 per member and are expected to rise to £5.75 per member within the 2017/18 financial year.

The Association will therefore be spending more per member annually on these two items alone than it is receiving from subscriptions at the current level, and the discrepancy will continue to grow.

The administration costs of the Association shown in the Treasurer's report equate to a further £1.39 per member. These costs cover postage, photocopying and the web site.

The relative value of the £5 membership fee has declined since 2008 due to the effects of inflation. Using figures provided by the Office of National Statistics the equivalent of £5 in 2008 would currently need to be between £6.00 and £6.25 depending on whether the Consumer Price Index changes or the Retail Price Index changes are applied.

The membership subscriptions for the 2017 / 18 year are already being collected by the Town Council so any increased subscription would not be able to take effect until the next subscription-year commencing April 2018

Proposal: That the annual membership fee be increased to £7.00 commencing April 2018.

This proposal was carried.

Election of Officers

Lesley Marsh and Chris Preece have stepped down from their roles.
Cathy Fewlass will be having a short break from her role on the committee.
Gill thanked them for their continued support.

Steve Gallimore will be stepping down from his role next year.

- **Gill Murdoch** – remains as **Chair**
- **Deputy-Chair** - vacancy
- **Steve Gallimore** – remains as **Treasurer**
- **John Braithwaite** - remains as **Seed Order Co-ordinator**
- **Jane Lacey** – remains as **Membership Secretary**
- **Christine Conlon** - remains as **Minutes Secretary**

Remaining on the committee:

Viv Pearson

New committee members

We welcome Bridget Hirschmann and Ian Wilkins onto the committee.

These appointments were proposed, seconded and agreed by those who attended the meeting.

Any other business

- Discussion continues about preparation for manning the Plant Fair. A rota for manning the stall will be drawn up. Plants and produce are needed. Plants can be stored in Steve's garden, the afternoon before.
- Thanks go to J Debbage and Ray, for putting shuttering around mini-plots, replacing the corrugated iron.
- H Simpson's offer of bags of soil conditioner will be investigated.
- Orleton have a permaculture set-up in their allotments. More information is required on this subject so that we could look at different categories for the plots e.g. no-dig plots.
- Suggested that we have a speaker for our open day.
- Saturday 20th May, 10am – 12, Police Marking of gardening equipment.
- Security of the site by locking the gates will be highlighted in the next Newsletter.

Gill Murdoch thanked everyone for attending the meeting and the meeting was closed.

Next Annual General Meeting: Wednesday 2nd May 2018, 7pm, in the Town Council Offices, Corn Square, Leominster.

Please bring your copy of these minutes with you to the next A.G.M. meeting.