

Hawthorn Allotments AGM
17th November 2011

Meeting held at James Cameron Community Centre opened at 7:30pm

Attendees

George MacWilliam, Richard Crawford, Susan Henderson, Graham Meeks, Cath MacIver, Ishbel MacNeil, Donald J Macleod, Dan Matheson, Annette Crooks, Jeff Macdonald, Anne Jack, Hamish Jack, Alan Brown, Susan Macleod, Anne Gould, Alison Gillespie, Peter Patterson, Mrs Patterson, Susan Laverock, Carmen Mayo, Eli Carlisle, Angela Maclean, Roy Gibson, Laura Bailey, Kevin MacKenzie

Apologies

Jane MacIntyre, Eleanor Porteous, Frances Campbell, Peter Byrne, Denis & Sue Tracey, Wilma Illingworth, Mark Russell

1. Welcome

2. Chairman's Address

The past year has been a busy one – indeed an historic one – in that allotments have returned to Inverness after a long gap. The support for them both in the local community and in the wider one has been very encouraging. I do not intend to go back over all the matters which I covered at the General Meeting on 30 June this year but as it is our first AGM since planting has started I would like to record again a thank you to all those who have been involved in helping to get Hawthorn Allotments up and running. The Climate Challenge Fund provided the finance and the Highland Council provided the land. An excellent group of people including Tearlaich Quinnell, Andy Dorin, our former Secretary, and Alan Brown who was previously on Committee have to be mentioned for their excellent efforts. We also had the support of the local community through its elected members of Highland Council, Community Council and Residents' Association level and the officials at the Highland Council.

We have I hope you agree had a good first season. The weather has not been great but as it has not been too dry the existence of only one water supply standpipe has not been a major problem.

The soil has proved to be very good for most crops and the efforts of all our members are to be applauded, especially those who have spent time working on the common areas of the site to improve the overall appearance and the exclusion of rabbits and other vermin.

The Committee which has been in place since our meeting at the end of June has been busy but there is still much to be done. I am confident that they and the new Committee will continue to move projects forward even in a period when funding for all manner of projects in the non-commercial sector is likely to be limited.

I would like to thank in particular those members of Committee who are standing down from their positions at this AGM. Both Cath, our Treasurer and Susan, one of the Committee, have been heavily involved in matters over the last two years and their efforts should be warmly appreciated by us all.

The others on Committee have all worked hard but I would like to single out Richard who with his enthusiastic approach and direct Yorkshire manner has kept things very much up to speed since he became Secretary.

I would also like to congratulate all those who have organised the social events which we have had on the site this year. They are an important part of any allotment association's progress. Hopefully during next year we may be able to put up a large communal shed so that we can gather comfortably in all weather.

Talking of sheds, we all know that the security is an issue on the site and I know that whilst putting up a machine gun tower has been ruled out the Committee is looking at other ideas to give greater protection against those who have anti-social behaviour on their mind.

We have had support from local businesses as well and I would like to mention Farm & Household who are willing to offer discount to members and Munro's Nursery in Munloch who have provided bulbs free of charge. I would encourage all our members to use those organisations wherever possible.

There are matters which I would like to have dealt with during my time as Chairman. If the new Committee want to ask I will still be prepared to produce a draft of a new Constitution but apart from that I hope if my work allows it to devote more time to the allotment now that I am standing down as Chairman.

I would like to close by thanking all the Association members for their efforts during the last year and wish you good vegetable growing for the future.

3. Secretaries Report

Richard thanked George for his considerable contribution to the allotments and wished him a happy retirement from the committee.

There are 55 current plot holders, 18 on the waiting list that have paid their £10 holding fee and 8 additional that have not. 2 people have left the allotments this year.

One of the negative jobs the secretary has is issuing of requests to keep plots tidy and in such a state as to not affect neighbours plots. Following that, formal letters and eventually a warning letter regarding potential eviction from the allotments. It is not a pleasant task but is essential to maintain good order in the allotments, so please don't take offence; this procedure will be handled in as delicate a matter as possible – if it is required!

Hopefully, the notice board will be finished soon (on the reverse side of the Hawthorn Allotments board at the entrance) so please keep an eye on that for any notices – especially if you don't have email

One of the main projects we have upcoming is the provision of water stand pipes around the allotments. However, this will require significant input from working parties and this has been disappointing because it seems to be the same people who attend each of the working parties we invoke. If there are future WP's, please make an effort to attend and contribute to the wider good of the allotments – thank you.

The community shed has not yet manifested. If anyone has any contacts that could give us a route to a portacabin or something similar, please let the committee know

We should have the new website up and running soon, so keep an eye open for an email or a message on the notice boards that tells of its rebirth

4. Treasurers Report

Cath gave a summary of the finances – the main income has been from the CCF. There was £50k to spend by 31st March and an application was made for an increase to £59,910 to cover further expenditure. The composting toilet is out of the budget. Fundraising in general has been weak and Cath would like to see a bigger drive during the next year. The Council haven't taken our rent for 2 quarters, so we are keeping back £1,115 in case... Of the other expenditure, the ploughing was much lower than expected.

Allotments For Inverness –Comann Na Lios		
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE		
For the period 1 st July 2010 to 30 th June 2011		
FINANCIAL INCOME:		
	£	£
Balance carried forward 1 st July 2010:-		110.00
Climate Challenge Fund		55910.16
Bank Interest Received		6.06
Membership dues/Waiting List fees/Donations/raffle		2941.40
TOTAL FINANCIAL INCOME		
FINANCIAL COSTS:		
Contractor costs	55575.81	
Miscellaneous	853.59	
TOTAL FINANCIAL COSTS	<u>56429.40</u>	
BALANCE AS AT 30/06/2011	2538.22	
	£58967.62	£58967.62

<u>BREAKDOWN OF INCOME/ EXPENDITURE</u>	
<u>INCOME</u>	£
<u>CLAIM 1 CCF</u>	32076
<u>CLAIM 2 CCF</u>	502.65
<u>CLAIM 3 CCF</u>	21776.60
<u>CLAIM 4 CCF</u>	1554.91
<u>BANK INTEREST RECEIVED</u>	6.06
<i>£1.72 £2.29 £1.75 £0.30</i>	
<u>MEMBERSHIP DUES/ WAITING LIST/ DONATIONS</u>	2877.00
<u>RAFFLE</u>	64.40
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£
<u>PATERSON FFL (Fencing Contractor)</u>	32076
<i>£28000</i>	
<i>£4076</i>	
<u>SCOTTISH WATER</u>	300.30
<i>Connection Charge</i>	
<u>A F CRUDEN ASSOCIATES</u>	1776.60
<i>Advise and Preparation of tenders for</i>	
<i>Parking and access works/consult with Scottish Water</i>	
<u>G F JOB</u>	
<i>Excavating/ Establishing car park/ soakaway</i>	
<i>£20000</i>	
<i>Track extension/supply and site portalo</i>	21422.91
<i>£1422.91</i>	
<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>	
<i>Hire of room /Hire of room AGM /tea & coffee</i>	52.50
<i>Purchase of marker paint/pegs</i>	32.20
<i>Scottish Allotment & Gardens Society (annual subscription)</i>	105.60
<i>Sign Centre (supply site sign)</i>	132
<i>Ploughing cost</i>	250
<i>Site Insurance –Blue Fin</i>	202.35
<i>Catering Ingredients-open day</i>	78.94

Vote for adoption of accounts: Proposed – Susan Henderson, Seconded – Dan Matheson
Carried unanimously

One final note on the accounts is the need for an independent examiner. Cath hastwo contacts to pursue and this will be dealt with forthwith

5. Annual subscription

The committee feel it is necessary to provide ‘encouragement’ for people to get involved with working parties, so we proposed an increase for large plots from £60 to £75 and for small plots from £45 to £50 – the plan being that if at least half of the years working parties are attended, then the subscriptions for the following year will be reduced back to their former levels for those participants.

Question from the floor: Jeff Macdonald – when are subs due

Answer: Post AGM note, please refer to the constitution which states:

'19 Subscriptions. A subscription may be determined by the adopting members in general meeting together with the date by which payment shall be made. Failure to make payment by the due date shall mean that the defaulting member shall cease to be a member. Each member at the date of the AGM shall require to pay an annual subscription by 15th January failing which the defaulting member shall cease to be a member. Anyone becoming a member AGM's shall be required to pay in that initial period of membership such proportion of the annual subscription as the Committee shall deem appropriate at the time the member enters into their plot holder agreement.'

Vote for adoption of new subscriptions: Proposed – Cath MacIver, Seconded – George MacWilliam
Carried unanimously

6. Election of the Committee

Three committee members stood down – George MacWilliam, Cath MacIver (both currently office bearers) and Susan Henderson. All the rest of the committee were prepared to stand again

Chair: Graham Meeks Proposed – Richard Crawford, Seconded - Ishbel MacNeil
Carried unanimously

Secretary: Richard Crawford Proposed – George MacWilliam, Seconded – Cath MacIver
Carried unanimously

Treasurer: Jane McIntyre Proposed – Dan Matheson, Seconded – Allan Brown
Carried unanimously

A new position of Fund Raiser was proposed to enable the treasurer to focus on managing the accounts.

Fund Raiser: Cath MacIver Proposed – Dan Matheson, Seconded – Allan Brown
Carried unanimously

Ordinary Committee: It was generally felt that the committee should be increased to ensure adequate cover of the various issues that will be upcoming, working parties, website development and social events being the main points. A unanimous vote kept Laura Bailey and Eleanor Porteous in the committee

Further votes were as follows:

Allan Brown	Proposed – Dan Matheson, Seconded – Richard Crawford
Kevin MacKenzie	Proposed – Richard Crawford, Seconded – Cath MacIver
Jeff Madonald	Proposed – Allan Brown, Seconded – Dan Matheson
Susan Laverock	Proposed – Cath MacIver, Seconded – Dan Matheson
	All carried unanimously

7. AOB

- Eli Carlisle had asked for group purchase of seeds to be looked at. Dan Matheson has good contacts for bulk buy of seeds and other allotment goods. He will co-ordinate this activity
- Storage bins for group compost / chicken manure to be built in the woods at the end of the track – this will be added to working party list
- Roy Gibson offered to provide wood chips for general use – gratefully accepted by all
- Hamish Jack can source pallets. Anyone wanting some should let Hamish know
- Mrs Patterson asked about potato blight and who was affected. This was a sporadic event in the allotments, some affected and some not. Even those affected had mixed strengths of infection. After general comments from around the floor, the suggestions are a) be vigilant and deal with any infection promptly, and / or 2) use blight resistant strains
- A Christmas get together was proposed – probably too late to organise, but will be discussed at the next committee meeting

There were no further matters raised

Meeting Closed 8:45pm