

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HAWTHORN ALLOTMENTS**

**4 December 2012
James Cameron Centre, Dalneigh, Inverness
7.30pm**

Graham Meeks, Chairman, welcomed all to the Annual General Meeting of Hawthorn Allotments.

Plot Number	Name
1	Jane McIntyre
3	Peter Byrne
6	Donald John MacLeod
15	Dan Matheson
17	Ged Church
18	Catherine MacIver
20	Ken Locke + Donna Brown
26	Jeff Macdonald
27	Richard Crawford
29	Mairi Oakley
34	Kevin MacKenzie
42	Laura Bailey + John Braid
43	Colin David Mackenzie
45	Ishbel MacNeil
48	Allan Brown
50	Su Cooper
55A	Greg Grant

Apologies were received from the following members.

Plot Number	Name
4	Hamish Jack
5	Maggie MacKinnon
7	Rhona Wilson
9	Wilma Illingworth
10	Rebecca Munro
19	Eleanor Charman
36	Anne Gould
47	George MacWilliam
52	John Cheadle
57	Susan Laverock

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Graham Meeks, Chairman delivered his report for the year past and apologised for not being able to carry out his role as Chairman as well as he had hoped as he had been incapacitated through injury.

Having had a great first season on the allotments, this year's season reflected generally poor growing conditions throughout the country. Despite this, most people on Hawthorn Allotments were committed to the cause and he wished everyone a good 2013 season.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Richard Crawford, Secretary, delivered his report. He commenced by thanking all the new members who have excelled in managing their plots. He stated that there had been new plots created including two smaller plots aimed at encouraging those who felt they initially wished to try out an allotment space before committing to a bigger area or to use for educational purposes.

Rabbit fencing had been completed and further standpipes provided during the year.

He thanked Catherine Maciver for arranging for applying to the Highland Council for funding for a port-a-cabin and poly-tunnel and also informed the AGM that the port-a-cabin had now been purchased and is on site.

Richard stated Carmen Mayo and Katie Messenger have given notice that they do not intend to renew their membership and Carmen wishes the items on her plot to be available to other plot holder's in lieu of a donation to Hawthorn Allotment funds.

The waiting list currently stands at 32 (this includes individuals who have expressed an interest but have not paid £10 to be on the waiting list).

Richard informed the meeting that as he now is a Community Councillor with all the commitments that go with such a post, he regretted he could no longer act as Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jane Macintyre, Treasurer, then delivered her report. The bank balance was standing at a healthy figure but included the rent for two years (£3120) as the Highland Council had yet to collect the rent despite being approached by Richard Crawford about this.

The Coop Bank account was to be closed as this was a postal account and no longer convenient with monies being transferred into the new RBS account.

An open day held in June had raised in excess of £600.

Copies of the prepared accounts were passed to all members and questions invited.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Richard Crawford and seconded by Dan Matheson.

The meeting then moved on to discuss the fixing of the annual subscriptions. Ishbell MacNeil (Member) asked for clarification of the discount that was to be applied to this year's subscriptions re working parties attended during 2012.

Richard stated that the discount only applied if three working parties had been attended. Ishbell stated that this had not been made clear at the beginning.

General discussion arose as to the rates for the coming year and the general consensus was to leave the subs at the same level as last year and discontinue any discount regarding work parties.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE AND OFFICE BEARERS

Current Chairman, Graham Meeks stated that he would remain in post if no one else wished to stand.

Catherine Maciver (Member) stated that although Wilma Illingworth was unable to attend the AGM she had indicated that she was willing to take on the responsibility of an office bearing post.

Catherine Maciver (Member) proposed Wilma be elected Chairperson and Jane MacIntyre (Treasurer) seconded this proposal.

There were no other nominations for this post and Wilma Illingworth was elected as Chairperson.

As Richard Crawford indicated he was standing down as Secretary he nominated Colin Mackenzie (Member) for the post of Secretary. Graham Meeks seconded this proposal and no other nominations were forthcoming for this post. Colin Mackenzie was elected as Secretary.

Jane Macintyre indicated she was happy to remain as Treasurer. Graham Meeks proposed Jane be re elected as Treasurer and Dan Matheson (Member) seconded this proposal. Jane Macintyre was re elected as Treasurer. There were no other nominations for this post.

Kevin Mackenzie, Jeff Macdonald, Laura Bailey indicated they were prepared to remain as committee members with Catherine Maciver, Allan Brown and Susan Laverock standing down.

Nominations were invited for the vacant committee member posts (non office bearing) and Dan Matheson was nominated by Catherine Maciver for a committee post. Graham Meeks seconded this proposal.

Jeff Macdonald proposed Ged Church for committee member and Graham Meeks seconded this.

NEW COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Wilma Illingworth
Secretary : Colin Mackenzie
Treasurer : Jane Macintyre

NON OFFICE BEARING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dan Matheson
Kevin Mackenzie
Laura Bailley
Jeff Macdonald
Ged Church

Richard Crawford, retiring Secretary, handed over to Colin Mackenzie (new Secretary) to continue the meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS 2012

Colin Mackenzie, Secretary, stated he could arrange for an independent examiner.

AOCB

Kevin Mackenzie brought up the subject of bee keeping on the allotment and was informed that it was in the allotment rules that whilst the Highland Council allowed bee keeping in its allotment policy, Hawthorn Allotments had ruled previously that any plot holder wishing to do this must have a recognised bee keeping qualification. General discussion on the pros and cons and Mairi Oakley (Member) suggested that a suitably qualified person be invited to give a talk on the subject and then allow the members to make an informed choice on the matter. It was generally agreed that this was a good idea.

Colin Mackenzie brought up the subject of whether the Society should change its status to a charitable organisation or be limited by guarantee. It was agreed that this would be researched by Colin Mackenzie and the results presented to the committee and members at a later date.

The meeting was informed by Catherine Maciver that the purchase of a poly-tunnel had been on the agenda for some time and was being researched hopefully with purchase imminent to prepare for the next growing season with the aim of growing on and selling plants to plot holders to add to society funds.

The provision of disabled beds was discussed and agreed by all that this should be looked into by the committee for this coming season.

Provision of a tool shed and communal tools was discussed and will be considered at a future committee meeting.

There being no other competent business, the meeting was closed by Colin Mackenzie, Secretary who thanked the retiring committee members for all their hard work.

Meeting ended 9.10pm