

**North Cadbury Allotment Association
Annual General Meeting
30 March 2011**

Present: Kate Richards (Chair), Sharon Dobbins (Treasurer), Glenda Abrahams (Secretary), Theresa Hallet, Steve Craggs, Julia Ingram.

Apologies: Julia Moore, Pam Wood, Heidi Howcroft and Tim Hosker, Jonathan Channon.

Non Attendees: Sean O’Gorman, Tim Griffey, Wayne and Sita Mitchell, Pam and John Lampert, Lee Barber.

1. Minutes of AGM held on

The minutes of the AGM held on 8 June 2010 had been agreed and signed off with copies being distributed to all allotment holders.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Chair’s report

NCAA AGM - 30th March 2010

Ownership of the Allotment site began in the beginning of May 2010 and the North Cadbury Allotment Association was duly formed at the first AGM in June. The AGM was very well attended and saw Kate Richards elected as Chairperson, Sharon Dobbins elected as Treasurer, Heidi Howcroft elected as Secretary and Parish Councillor Pam Wood was introduced as the ex officio representative on behalf of the Parish Council. The majority of plots were taken before May and the few plots left were taken in the course of the following few months.

The school in North Cadbury have been provided with a small plot and this has been given free in order to maintain and widen the community use of this facility.

The NCAA has 13 x full plots, 6 x plots and 1 small plot for the school available. Currently 12 x full plots, 5 x plots and the school’s plot are taken and therefore there is 1x full plot and 1x plot vacant. 15 plot holders live in North Cadbury and 2 plot holders live in Galhampton. 8 plots are owned by families with school age children and 9 plots are owned by people without school age children (these include people with grown up families and those without children).

NCAA has held quarterly meetings and these have been ‘open’ to all allotment holders. All meetings have been minuted and the minutes have been published on the parish website. At the January 2010 meeting Heidi Howcroft expressed her wish to stand down as Secretary at the following AGM. The Association would like to give her a vote of thanks for all her hard work over the past year.

In August to fit in with ‘Allotment Week’ there was a ‘Social’ event on the Allotment

site where people could turn up and share a drink and some nibbles and get to know each other. In October there was a 'Pumpkin Fest' which saw a small team of people and children brandishing tape measures and cameras taking 'accurate' measurements of the pumpkins and squashes grown on various allotments. Prizes were awarded to the winners of the largest, smallest, well looked after and roundest cucubits. Prizes were kindly donated by Heidi and Tim.

Also in August the NCAA applied for a grant for a water supply. In September a grant of £1000 was awarded from the Somerset Community Foundation. Work is currently underway, the water pipe has been laid by David Brine Digger Hire who has done a very tidy job. The Association would also like to express their thanks to Adrian Smith who gave permission for the water pipe to be laid across his land.

Over the course of the year allotment plots have been cultivated and many plants have been seeded, planted and cropped. Sheds and Polytunnels have also been erected. Here's to another successful year down on the plot!

Chair's report approved.

4. Treasurer's report

Income and Expenditure Account

For the 9 months ended 28 February 2011

Income

Rent	222.00	
SWCCA Membership	28.00	
Donation – 20 October	10.00	
Rural Fund Grant – 18 October	1,000.00	
		1,260.00

Expenditure

Annual SWCCA Membership	28.00
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Surplus of Income over Expenditure 1,232.00

Of Which

North Cadbury Allotment Association Bank Account	1,036.00
North Cadbury Parish Council	196.00
	<hr/> 1,232.00

Estimated Income and Expenditure for Year Ending 2012

Income – Annual Rent for 15 plots 360.00

Expenditure

Maintenance of water tower (5% of cost)	42.50
Sinking Fund – 10 year replacement	85.00
Grass seed (5 Kilos)	25.00
Hedge cutting	50.00
Grass cutting	50.00
Liability insurance	10.00
Removal of dumped waste	20.00
Notice Board	20.00
Health and Safety signs x 3	20.00

322.00

37.50

Purchase of mower ???

Allotment annual event ???

Copies of the Treasurer's report were circulated to those present. Sharon explained that the report covered a nine month period and has been approved by the Parish Council. The Accountant will finalise the report and then sign it off.

Sharon drew attention to provisional allowances for such matters as hedge and grass cutting and advised that she had subsequently found that the cost of hedge cutting had been overestimated and grass cutting underestimated. It was hoped that one would 'balance out' the other. An additional allowance had been made for Liability insurance, each plot is currently insured but this additional insurance would cover members of the public who may access communal areas.

Sharon asked if allotment holders could pay annually rather than quarterly to cut down on administration, but urged everyone to contact her direct if this presented a problem.

Treasurer's report approved.

5. Election of Officers

Kate Richards offered to stand for Chair for a second year. All members present were in agreement.

Sharon Dobbins offered to stand as Treasurer for a second year. All members present were in agreement.

Glenda Abrahams offered to act as Secretary for this year. All members present were in agreement.

6. Water

Kate updated the meeting on progress. Following the award of the grant the pipe has now been laid by Dave Bryant, who had done a very good job. The original plan had been for the provision of a water tower with water being drawn from the stream by means of a battery and a solar panel. However, it has not been possible to source a battery capable of performing the task and Kate proposed that a hand pump be considered. The cost of a hand pump would be much the same as that of the water tower, £161.00 plus VAT. The meeting felt that the hand pump might be preferable to the tower as there was no risk of a tap being left on, allowing plots to be flooded. Theresa advised that a hand pump was used at her other allotment in Ilchester and it was very simple to operate. Kate advised that there was a non return valve at the end of the pipe, which meant that water pumped up would remain in the pipe rather than flowing back to the stream. All present were in agreement. Kate will write to Somerset Community Funding to ensure that they are happy for us to purchase a pump instead of a water tower. Providing they are in agreement it is hoped that the system may be in place by the end of the month.

7. Bees

Kate had tried to contact the Somerset representative of the Beekeepers Association but unfortunately she has not responded to her calls. It was agreed that any allotment holder interested in beekeeping should attempt to make contact with the Beekeepers Association for advice. Kate advised that several factors needed to be taken into consideration, including membership of the Beekeeping Association and insurance. Information regarding the keeping of bees on the allotment was included in the Allotment Association's original membership pack.

Steve commented that there was already a hive near the river. Sharon advised that this was a sleeping hive that was only used for part of the year. This hive is nothing to do with the allotments and will remain in situ.

Kate reiterated that if bees were to be kept on the allotment someone would need to become a member of the Beekeeper's Association and take responsibility for the bees.

8. Any Other Business

Kate advised that her father had kindly donated some white polythene sheeting and allotment members were very welcome to help themselves.

Sharon commented upon an amount of earth that had been deposited at the edge of the allotment and asked that members refrain from doing this in future as it could restrict access for the tractor which is used to cut the hedgerow at certain times of the year.

Sharon advised that the coal man is selling compost, bark, growbags, etc. He is willing to drop these off at the allotments and will offer a discount for multiple purchases. Leaflets will be available shortly which will give prices.

Steve suggested bulk buying of items such as seed and then selling it back to

allotment members at a slight profit as a means of raising funds. Kate felt that problems could arise relating to storage and ensuring that we only purchased what members wanted in order to avoid being left with surplus stock.

The members asked if there were any plans to extend the use of any spare allotments to people outside of the Parish. Kate advised that there were currently one and a half plots available and that the Parish Council had stipulated that these plots should remain accessible to persons living within the Parish. She felt that if we could demonstrate that we had tried every reasonable means to find tenants within the Parish without success then the Council may reconsider. All attendees felt that it would be better for the allotments to be used rather than remain untended.

It is hoped that there will be an Open Afternoon in the Parish which could include activities or events taking place within the allotments. Steve said that he knew someone who was in contact with Charles Dowding and suggested that he would make an excellent celebrity guest.

Further activities on the allotments were discussed following the success of the Pumpkin Fest; these included competitions for 'serious' achievements for those of a competitive nature and also some 'fun' competitions.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at 7.30 pm on Thursday 28 April. Venue to be confirmed.