

# NORTHWEST COUNTIES ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

*County Body and Regional Panel for Region Three of the  
National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Limited*

## Minutes

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2014

Heaton Park Bowls Club, Heaton Park, St Margaret's Drive, Prestwich,  
Greater Manchester, M25 2SW.

12 noon.

**Attended by:** Regional Rep, Andy Percival, Chair, Alan Hull, Secretary, Andrea Hallissey, Treasurer, Terry Owen, West Cheshire Allotment Federation (4), Free Lane Allotments (2), Limey Valley Allotment Association (1), West Lancs (3), Dorrington Rd Lancaster (1), Hyndburn Federation (1), Association of Bolton Allotment Societies (2), Trafford Federation (3), SMAGA (3), Dean Row Allotments (2), Albert Ave Allotments (2), AMAS (4), Wirral Federation (1), Tameside Allotment Federation (1)

**Apologise from:** Bill Taylor, Donna Williamson, James Cunningham, Arthur Jervis, Don Booth, Susan Doughty, Bernadette Burgon, Phil Swift, Paul Douthwaite, Rod Massie, Paul Crabtree, Derek Copper, Paul Green.

**Chairman's Welcome:** The meeting opened at 12.15pm with a welcome given to all those attending especially those representatives from Association/Societies attending for the first time. He proceeded to introduce the Exec Committee and explain each role for the benefit of those attending. Appreciation and thanks given to Colin and Jenny Pilcher and the AMAS team for their help to stage and organise the venue.

**Previous Meeting Minutes:** Proposed and second. Colin Pilcher and Dave Morris.

**Regional Rep's Report:** Andy Percival expressed his frustration at the lack of information he had regarding the rectifying of ongoing problems within the NAS Management, due mainly to the meeting previously arranged which had been abandoned before any business could be discussed. General staffing levels have been a concern within the NAS, these are being addressed and he asked for member's patience when contacting the Office. The Chair made it known that the Exec Committee, as a group, had been exploring the options available if the issues within the National body could not be rectified but confirmed their intension to remain as active members of the Society to help secure and strengthen the Allotment Movement. Andy again expressed his intent to stand for Chair at the forthcoming NSALG AGM.

A proposal of support was made from Richard King and second Terry Owen. Confirming the members support for Andy Percival as Regional Rep. The vote was carried unanimously.

**Treasurers Report:** Treasurer reported the audit of the accounts had been completed and signed off as correct.

Account Balance £537.53

Discussion followed concerning an over payment from National of some £694, a historical issue which he planned to rectify.

**ADI Mentor Report:** Mentor work had mainly revolved round speaking with Council Officials discussing issues affecting Allotments. He requested that personal disagreements within Association/Societies and Federations be solved in house and not involve himself or other members of the Exec Team. An appeal was sent out to all members to apply for project funding. Encouragement to work with respected Councils was suggested to further co-operation.

**Leases:** Colin Crawford, WCAF chairman gave a run down on the developments the Federation had made with regards to completing Lease agreements with CW&CC. West Lanc's informed the members that they were still involved in ongoing discussions with their respective Council.

**Insurance:** An informative and interesting discussion as to insurance requirements needed by those sites taking on self management. Items discussed included; Trustees Indemnity, Public Liability, Employers Liability, clauses to be included in constitutions. It was agreed that there is a lot of conflicting information and that more precise and informative document could be made available. Request to be explored.

**Colony Management System:** Both Andy and Andrea explained the value they saw in the system. It was suggested that sites showing interest in learning more should contact the secretary. Hopefully if enough interest shown, arrangement could be made with Colony to put on a training day. The company have offered a 28 day free trial.

**Local Federation Rep's Travelling Expenses:** Item withdrawn.

**Website, Logo, Filed Reports:** The secretary advised the members of the intension to revamp the website along with an appeal for Association/Society and Federation's involvement. Progress on the Logo was on going. She requested that quarterly reports should be sent as attachments not e-mails.

**NWC AGM:** The secretary apologised for the short notice and lack of time to circulate the invitation, especially with respect to the collection of nominations and motions for the AGM. Invitations to be sent out the week of 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

**NAS AGM Blackpool:** Those present were asked to put forward plans to show case the Northwest region. It was agreed that interest should be gaged before any plans should be made.

**Any Other Business:** Discussed the options available regarding local 2014 shows AMAS involved with Dig the City from 1<sup>st</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> August. Stockport with the Tatton Park Flower Show and Blackpool with Southport Flower Show. Mentioned was made to Public Health Outcome Fund (information on the internet).

**Next Meeting:** Pencilled in for 6<sup>th</sup> July 2014, hosted by Lancaster. Details to be confirmed by the secretary.

Meeting closed at 2.55pm. Thanks expressed to Colin and Jenny, especially Jenny for her well presented and delicious spread.