

**Craven Vale & Whitehawk Hill Allotment Society
Annual General Meeting**

**Sunday 26 April 2015
Bristol Estate Community Room**

Richard Howard	Brighton & Hove Allotment Federation
David Bradley	130 CV
Padraic Donnelly	130 CV
Tara Njie	48/2 CV
Jo Shuttleworth	65/1 CV
Susan Perrin	82 & 83 CV
Jane Griffin	46 & 47 WH
Ann Fox	137 WH
Helen Schmeier	76 WH
Jenny Embleton	118 CV
Todd Ratcliff	69 WH
Rose Quilty	41 CV
Geoff Kent	41 CV
Jean Tremlett	129 WH
Abby Hone	66 CV
Jane Hawkins	5 CV
James Gilderoy	37/2 CV
Becca Searle	11/1 CV
Sarah Gorton	41 WH
Nick Fry	64 CV
Tessa Pawsey	25 & 26 WH
Laura Timperly	38 CV
Megan Attlee	115/3
Vicki Pepper	76/1
Paul Skelly	37/2
Emma Barnard	47/1 CV
Simon	111 WH
Arthur Tallon	77/1
Lilian Roman	76
Maxwell Clarke	42 CV
Andrew Doig	42 CV

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2015

The minutes were agreed.

Committee Member Reports

Jane Hawkins (Chair) reported that the Save Craven Vale Campaign was an on-going success in Brighton and beyond. Social media had been used very effectively to make the case – with thanks to Nick Fry (Facebook campaign) and Emma

Barnard (Twitter campaign and Yahoo Group moderator). The campaign had helped bring the two allotment sites together and to create the new Society. Both sites were now more or less fully let.

The creation of the Society was in line with the council's and Brighton and Hove Allotment Federation's (BHAF) policy of encouraging self-management. It also enabled grant applications to be made for funding, which was particularly important as the council's already limited budget for allotments was likely to be cut further. The Society's constitution had been based on the Roedale Allotment Gardens Society's constitution but could be developed in the future if there was a need.

The Hub, the planned shop/meeting area, would soon be up and running. The galvanised metal structure had been purchased from grant funds and awaited delivery following the completion of the ground works. Members were invited to volunteer for a rota to maintain the shop. This would be managed so as not to be burdensome. It was agreed that a team would complete the ground works on Sunday 3 May (meeting from 1100).

It was hoped to develop a club to purchase supplies in bulk. There were different ways this could be established. Richard Howard (BHAF) said that the Moulescoomb Allotment Society had a club membership fee where members received a discount but non-members could still buy products without receiving a discount.

Abby Hone (Treasurer) reported that on the Society's finances for the period from November 2014 when the society was first formed until end March 2015.

The cash balance at the beginning of the period was £0.00

The income received during the period was/is £177.00

The expenses paid/due during the period was/is £75.00 (£40.60 be paid during the next period once the bank account is opened)

The cash balance at the end of the period remains £102.00. (The full Treasurer's report is attached.)

It was agreed that a seedling swap would be arranged for a date in May (TBC).

An archaeological tour of the area by Matt Pope would also be arranged when he was available.

Richard Howard (BHAF) said the Federation worked closely with the council to make policy on allotments. They encouraged each site to be represented on their committee to ensure all had a say in policy development.

Tessa Pawsey said that Dr Tony Spiers, an expert on arable botany, would be surveying the site in the coming weeks, looking for rare plants to demonstrate the site's nature conservation value. Plotolders should contact their site rep if they wanted to restrict access.

Nominations and Elections of Officers

Richard Howard (BHAF) chaired this part of the meeting.

The following were nominated and elected unopposed:

Chair – Jane Hawkins
Treasurer – Abby Hone
Secretary – James Gilderoy
Committee member – Emma Barnard
Committee member – Nick Fry
Committee member – Tessa Pawsey
Committee member – Jenny Embleton

There is a new BHAF policy of having elected site reps. This had been advised two weeks before this meeting. It was also recommended by the allotment officer that Craven Vale should have three site reps, instead of two at present. It was agreed that the election of site reps would be taken at the next meeting after notification of ploholders and co-workers. In the interim it was agreed that the following would act as site reps:

Craven Vale – Jane Hawkins, Pete Elliot and Laura Timperley
Whitehawk Hill – Jacob Nowinski, Pete Elliot and Jane Griffin

Save Craven Vale Campaign

Jane said the campaign had been very well received and had reduced the risk that the Craven Vale site would be threatened by development. Representations had been submitted as part of the City Plan process and the three main Parliamentary candidates had visited the site and wanted to help protect it.

Any other business

A new date for the open day would be advertised once the Hub was up and running.

Brighton and Hove Organic Gardening Group offered to talk to the Society. The Society was asked to consider actively promoting organic gardening.

It was agreed that methods of communication with Society members needed to be reviewed. It was unclear whether the council had a full list of email addresses and the posting of notices on gates was not always adequate. This would be considered further.

The next BHAF meeting will be held at Robert Lodge, Whitehawk Road on 27 May at 1830.

Date of next meeting

Sunday 26 July, 1030, Whitehawk Community Food Project.

Like us on **Facebook**:

<https://www.facebook.com/savecravenvaleallotments>

Follow us on **Twitter**:

@SaveCravenVale

Sign the **petition**:

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/save-craven-vale-brighton-allotments>

Keep in touch with the **Yahoo Group**:

save_craven_vale_allotments

Treasurer's Report for Craven Vale and Whitehawk Hill Allotment Society

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Signed:

Abby Hone, CVWHAS Treasurer

Delay with opening bank account is due mainly to Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) documents, which HSBC were not permitted to assist with, HMRC assisted as best they could and when completed (to the best of my knowledge) and submitted were returned as incorrect. Now need to respond with whether or not we are 'a disregarded entity, partnership, Simple trust or grantor trust'. AH has been in contact with Resource Centre who are happy to take a look (must go in week after 9am in person). AH contacted bank this week to ensure this was all that was holding up account and there was no other complexity due to time taken to get FATCA adjusted. HSBC put note on account and confirmed they just await completion of FATCA.

Grant funds:

Applied to site development fund in January 2015 for community hub, were encouraged by BHAf committee members, Allotments officers and contributions/checking from the committee.

£1,673.00 for flat pack container

£150.00 for materials (may not be able to reclaim due to timing)

NB – need to apply for further site development funds:

Wishlist...

notice boards

green roof

water butt

Food partnership grants re: green roof/plants for hub site