



AGM 2024: 12th March

Attendees: Jan Conde, Jenny Taylor, Laura McCormick Kilbride, Nicky Neale, Jen George Hay, Paul Bunnell, Chris Bishop, Gavin Aitchison, Ruth Patterson, Ruth Jenaway, Jan Handley

1. Chairperson report

- Bob, Association Chair attended the recent YACIO Allotment Associations meeting. It was a small agenda, with anti-social behaviour affecting many of the allotments in York, including Holgate Allotments. The YACIO lease runs out November this year, and they are looking at getting a longer-term lease. Other issues that were raised by people at the Association meeting include issues around the speed that plots can be re-let given the formal processes YACIO require.
- The carriage garden is opened monthly for a social event and it will be great to see more people attend. Additionally, we need more volunteers to help maintain the garden so please do come forward if you have any spare time.

2. Site Secretary

- We have received help from YACIO for fences and repair of taps. The main hedges have also recently been cut by the contractor with no issues.
- There will be a manure delivery soon, and also a compost delivery from Yorwaste.
- There have been lots of wood chip deliveries to our car park over winter which plotholders have made good use of. Helen has now painted a sign to ask for these to stop for now.
- Anti-social behaviour is still a problem and February has been really bad across three sites including our own. This has been upsetting to plot holders and one has given up due to not feeling comfortable. Following a meeting between YACIO, police, councillors and allotment associations, we have shored up the fencing, and set up a trail camera pointing at the beck. Police have been onsite on occasion and have apprehended some of the offenders. Please report any anti-social behaviour via 101 and if intimated please call 999.
- Helen attended a site secretary meeting and YACIO are asking for volunteers to judge the upcoming best plot competition. Sarah did this last year and reported that it did not take too long, and it was lovely to see other plots from around the area. For anyone interested please contact YACIO directly – contact@yorkallotments.org
- The orchard Open Day went really well, with coverage in the York Press and York Mix.
- Work has been ongoing on the starter plots area over winter with more ground preparation and paths laid. A working party to plant fruit trees and a mixed native hedge was well attended. Starter plots will be offered to people on the waiting list.
- The night garden will be being planted soon and there will be a working party if anyone wants to be involved.

- We want to install bat boxes in the night garden and there will be an activity in summer for plot holders to help build some. There was a suggestion from the floor that we could arrange some bat walks, particularly around Halloween.
- We have had eight new tenants since the last meeting and there are no plots available at the moment, with 198 people on the waiting list.
- Plot inspections will now be on a monthly basis to ensure people are making the best use of their plots.

3. Treasurer Report. Sarah, Treasurer reports that the current balance is £1277.45 + £100 cash, This includes £500 allocated to the upkeep of the Carriage Garden. Funding was received from West Bank Park fair and manure sales.

4. Committee. There was a unanimous vote to keep the same association committee. Phil Conde will remain in the secretary role.

5. Annual events

- **Garden competition** – last year potatoes in bag was won by Paul, congratulations. This year we will be changing the categories to the largest onion, longest carrot and best flower display of sunflowers. There will be rosettes and certificates. The garden competition will be judged at the end of September.
- **West Bank Park** fair date is the last weekend in June. We need volunteers to help with this if we are to attend again as our committee all have prior engagements on this weekend. We will also need some donations for the tombola again. Chris will take collections for the tombola.
- **Plant Swap and Seed Swap** will be held on 5th May and we hope that lots of people can attend.
- **Apple Pressing Day** is planned for 19th October at the carriage garden.

Further events to be held later in the year.

6. AOB

- Bowls Club Defibrillator. The Bowls Club asked for support to replace the battery and pads. It was agreed that we will carry out some fundraising with plot holders as this is a really useful community resource.
- The Bowls Club has asked if they can use the car park on the 30th April, 12th July and 11th August. It was suggested that we can ask plot holders not to park but noted that we are not able to stop the public from parking there. It was suggested that a sign could be erected with a message reminding everyone to display their parking permits. This may deter the public from parking there.
- There was a suggestion from the floor that some blackthorn bushes could be planted on the boundary of plot 36 to deter people from entering the allotments via this route. Ruth has the option to buy a lot of these at a budget price. Helen to check with the allotment holder about this.
- Severus Hill is now up for sale and a local community group has been established to buy this and preserve it for environmental protection.

Date of next meeting: To be confirmed.