

SMITHAM ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting
Held on the 21st March 2020 at “The Shed” Communal Area at 11am

Present: Richard & Ann Shore, Pauline Ben Ari, Ramon Farooki, Kate & Simon Flint, Simon Little, Heather & Graham Lovegrove, Andy Sparkes, Mary Mohanathasan, Helen Cramer, David Warren, John Dicken

Apologies: Eddie Nash, Colin & Aniko Derrick, Dave & Phil Elliot, Barbara & Alain Broggio, Caroline Higgins, John Hornegold, Jan Jordan & Julie Myatt, Ayube Mohamed, Jeremy Palmer, Graham Pilmoor, Tony Stevens, David Weatherall, Derek Brook

2019 Minutes

The minutes of the 2019 AGM previously circulated were agreed as a true record of the proceedings

Matters Arising

Two items remain outstanding:

- the four taps still need replacing
- the Lease has still not been resolved although Croydon Council say they are working on it

Chairman's Report

The Chairman was unwell and unable to attend and the Treasurer read the Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer, Ann, and Secretary, Pauline, for all their hard work throughout the year and welcomed new members, Mary Mohanathasan and Derek Brook

Members who had tidied communal areas before the AGM were thanked and also those who helped at the barbeque last summer

Croydon Federation

The Federation (CFAGS) which had been disbanded has reformed. Unfortunately, the Amenity Competition results for last year were never formally given but the Chair believed we came third. The only negative issue reported was the untidiness of the perimeter.

It is hoped that an Amenity Competition will be held and judged on 19th July 2020. The Best Plot and Best Newcomer will be judged on 26th and 27th July (two days if more than six sites enter). However, if we enter we will be required to supply a judge from the site

The strimmer was still not working and a decision was required whether to replace it or not

This was discussed and a decision made to purchase a new strimmer

The Beckenham Palace Park Flower Show due to be held on 19th July 2020 is likely to be cancelled. Further updates to follow

There is now a trolley available to move heavy items which will avoid the need for cars being driven onsite, particularly beyond the grasscrete. The trolley is kept in the communal shed

The date for the summer BBQ is provisionally set for **Sunday 12th July 2020**. Further details to follow

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer distributed the accounts for 2019, audited by Jan and Julie, and advised the meeting that there was a small loss for the year, but that funds remain healthy

A discussion took place as to how the funds could be used as these funds had been held since the Society was compensated by the Water Board for works carried out on the site

There were no suggestions and it was agreed that the costs of the BBQ would be paid for out of funds

The plot rental charges remain the same

Election of Committee

The Chairman and Treasurer were re-elected unanimously. The Secretary stood down and Andy Sparkes was proposed and unanimously elected as new Secretary

It had been decided to expand the Committee to include Facilities and IT. Ramon Farooki was proposed and unanimously elected as Facilities and Graham Lovegrove proposed and unanimously elected as Web Manager

AOB

Bonfires

There had been a complaint by a local resident about the frequency of bonfires during the summer months. It was agreed that plot holders would be reasonable in both the timing and the frequency of bonfires

The keeping of Bees

It was decided that there were sufficient bees on site and therefore the keeping of bees was limited to the existing beekeepers and number of beehives. There are currently three plots with beehives which represented 10% of the site

Allotment Inspection

In the light of the current situation no immediate inspections were planned

Hedgehogs

The keeping of hedgehogs onsite was discussed and Kate agreed to look into this further

The meeting closed at 11.45am

Pauline Ben-Ari
Secretary