

Smitham Allotment society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on 23 March 2024 at the Communal Area at 11am

Present:, Ramon Farooki (Chair), Ann Shore (Treasurer) , Fiona and Andy Sparkes (Secretary), Simon Little, Dave Warren, John Horngold, Eddie Nash, Colin Derrick, Marie Jenkinson, Pauline Ben Ari, Mohamed Ayube, Mary Mohanathanasan, Kate Flint, HelenCramer, Heather Lovegrove, Jan Goddard

Apologies:, Barbara Broggio

The meeting was chaired by Ramon Farooki.

2023 Minutes

The minutes of the 2023 AGM previously circulated were agreed as a true record of the proceedings.

Matters Arising

Some actions from the 2023 AGM were still to be addressed including the painting of plot numbers on posts and a date for clearing the shed.

Members were reminded to make sure the **petrol can was refilled** if it was used to fill the mower/strimmer. Costs could be reclaimed from the Treasurer.

Members were also reminded that in order to protect the main path, **vehicles can only be driven as far as the cone** and no further.

Action: Chair & Secretary to arrange for plot numbers to be painted and a date for clearing the shed arranged.

The **Croydon Federation** is not very active at present but Barbara is attending meetings when possible. There is currently no fee charged for membership and the Federation can provide legal advice and support if needed.

The matter of the **Society Lease** remains outstanding.

Chair's Report

The Chair thanked the Treasurer, Ann, and the Secretary, Andy, for their hard work and support throughout the year as well as the help and support of other members. He welcomed new members including Helen who was actually a returning member!

The annual allotment BBQ was a success last year as well as the seed swap and the committee are now looking at potential dates for 2024 to run these again. He noted that there were more mixed views on the plot competition.

Finally, he noted that there were some repairs needed including to the toilet and lawnmower and asked for volunteers to help with these (both subsequently actioned).

Action: Chair & Secretary to arrange date for BBQ, seed swap and tidying of communal area and shed.

Treasurer's Report

The accounts for 2023 were circulated in advance and the Treasurer thanked Pauline for auditing them. The Treasurer gave an overview of the accounts and current financial position. The £10 annual increase in rents agreed last year had been implemented which meant the allotment costs

were now adequately covered. There had also been some additional expenditure in 2023 including a second BBQ and the running of the plot competition.

The Treasurer mentioned that the water bill is currently being queried with SES Water as the bill provided has not been calculated correctly which has resulted in a credit showing on the account. This may mean some additional costs once the issue is resolved and the Treasurer will add a note to the accounts at that point to explain the issue.

Action: Treasurer to monitor water readings whilst the issue with SES Water is being resolved.

All subscriptions had been paid in 2023.

The Chair thanked Ann and Pauline for her work preparing and auditing the accounts.

The accounts were proposed and accepted as a true record of the financial position of the Society.

Election of the committee

All the existing committee members agreed to stand again and were proposed and unanimously re-elected by those present.

AoB

Debris behind the shed – Eddie noted that the debris was unsightly for the house directly backing on to the shed area and that previously the Croydon gardens department had helped clear similar debris but probably did not have capacity at present given funding constraints. The hiring of a shredder was suggested or possibly engaging a local tree feller.

Action: John Horngold to speak to a local tree feller to ask for his help.

Bonfires – in answer to a query about bonfires it was agreed that these could take place from October to April but should ideally be at dusk and plot holders should stay around until the bonfire is finished and/or extinguish any embers.

Untended plots – the committee is aware that this is an issue and will be undertaking a plot inspection today and sending out warning letters as appropriate.

Action: Committee to undertake plot inspection and send out warning letters as appropriate.

Plot competition – this took place in 2023 but when put to a vote of those present it was agreed not to run it again in 2024.

What'sApp Group - in answer to a question about establishing a What'sApp Group, the chair asked for phone numbers of those wishing to be added to the existing group.

Action: Secretary to ask for names/numbers of those to be added to the group when circulating the AGM minutes and forward these to the Chair.

The Chair thanked members for attending and the meeting closed at 11.40am.