

STREATLEY ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 26/04/18

The meeting took place in the Morrell Room, Streatley, at 7.30pm

1) Attendance

Committee members John Ashton (Chair), Peter Barefield, Harry Beresford, Karen Morton, Jo Nicolson and Linda Palmer attended with a further 17 plot holders. Apologies for absence were received from Heather Dunthorne, George Lovering, Sally Wicks, Dave Holt, Ivan Scott, Tom Worthington, Samantha France, Nikhil Kulkarni, Sarah Winstanley, Jacky & Bob Pugh, Janet and John Mehers.

2) Confirmation of the notes of the AGM held on 26/04/17

The notes of the previous AGM had been circulated prior to this meeting and were agreed and adopted as a true record.

3) Chairman's Report

A written report had been circulated prior to this meeting by Chairman John Ashton. He highlighted from the many positives of the year the following:

The manner in which plot holders stepped in when the then maintenance contractor performed appallingly in June 2017. Particular thanks were made to Karen Morton, Harry Beresford, Ivan Scott, Maureen Cross and Sam France.

The new arrangements for maintenance of common areas by some plot holders in exchange for a reduction in fees. Thanks were expressed to the plot holders for volunteering.

The management of the overgrown trees and hedges forming the boundary with Thames Water Sewerage Works: This work had only been possible following a successful bid for funding from the Aviva Community Fund. Thanks were expressed to Cyndy Ashton for her work on this bid and to all others that supported it.

4) Membership Secretary's Report

This had been circulated prior to the meeting. Harry Beresford confirmed that just 2 plots had become available during the year and both have been allocated to new tenants. There are 3 people currently on the waiting list.

In answer to a question from Nigel Wheatley, Harry confirmed that the new Data Protection Legislation will require all plot holders to consent to their details being held by SAS. Namely- name, address, telephone number and email address. This data is held solely to enable communication by the Committee and is not shared with anyone else apart from Goring Hardware shop that has a list of names and plot numbers for the issue of keys. All tenants will be asked to give consent shortly.

5) Site Managers Report

Peter Barefield had circulated his written report prior to the meeting.

Referring to the tree and hedge work Peter explained that it had been a significant task this year but it should be possible to manage the boundary as a smaller and cheaper job next time.

Following our dissatisfaction with the grounds maintenance contractor Peter had obtained quotes from alternative contractors. Unfortunately, offering a new contract would have required a significant increase in fees.

A working party will be arranged shortly to finish spreading the chippings over common pathways.

In answer to a question from Chris King the chairman confirmed that there has been discussion with the Church Warden from St Mary's regarding reducing the height of trees on the boundary with the Churchyard. As yet there has been no action, presumably due to lack of funding.

6) Treasurers Report.

The statement of accounts up to 31/03/18 had been circulated to all prior to the meeting. The statement had been inspected by Ian King (Clerk to SPC) who had found them to be a true reflection of SAS's financial situation. In the absence of George Lovering, the Chairman clarified some of the items in the accounts. No questions were raised. Thanks were expressed to Ian King.

7) Social Secretary's Report.

Karen Morton spoke to her report which had also been circulated prior to the meeting.

The allotment supper last year had been a great success. The date for this year is 9th September.

SAS aims to have a presence at village events when possible, for example at the Streatley Parish Assembly when photographs will be displayed and surplus rhubarb offered.

SAS is also taking part in the Open Gardens event for the Gap Festival. This is on Sunday 17th June from 2-5 pm. Volunteers are needed to show people around.

Karen also encouraged all tenants to introduce themselves to other plot holders, especially newcomers.

8) Matters to be decided

Documents setting out a proposed budget for 2018/19 and associated plot fees had been circulated to all plot holders prior to the meeting. With plot fees proposed to remain the same as in 2017/18 a small deficit may be incurred if the budgeted expenditure level is reached. The Committee feel there are sufficient reserves for this to be sustainable.

The budget was accepted by those present with no objections and the plot fees are to remain at £40 for a small plot and £55 for a large plot. No change to the £50 refundable deposit when taking up the tenancy of a plot.

9) Nominations for and Election of the committee.

Jo Nicolson and Jacky Pugh are both retiring from the committee and were thanked for their contributions over the years.

John Ashton and George Lovering have both served for 3 years and therefore stood down though offer themselves for re-election for a maximum of one further year.

Imogen Smart offered to serve on the Committee and to take on the role of Treasurer from George Lovering. Diana Wheatley also offered to serve.

There were no further nominations or volunteers, and both were welcomed to the Committee.

The Committee for 2018-19 is:

John Ashton, Chair, Streatley representative
Imogen Smart, Treasurer, taking over from George Lovering
Harry Beresford, Membership secretary
Peter Barefield, Site Manager
Karen Morton, Social secretary
Linda Palmer, Goring representative, minute secretary
George Lovering, Treasurer
Aslog Malmberg, Streatley Parish Council
Diana Wheatley

10) AOB

The next working party will take place on the 5th and 6th May between 10-12.30.

Harry Beresford congratulated those concerned with the maintenance of the western boundary hedge as this now looks very good.

Kathy Patching asked if there could be a mower or strimmer for the use of those willing to maintain the communal areas. John explained some of the possible problems e.g. initial cost, maintenance, storage, insurance and safety. It was agreed however that the Committee would give full consideration to this request.

Following the completion of the formal business there was a break for refreshments. The Chairman then welcomed Anaelle Bouabdelli who gave an illustrated talk about organic gardening.