

STREATLEY ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 4th April 2019

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

1) Attendance

Committee members John Ashton (Chair), Peter Barefield, Harry Beresford, Karen Morton, Imogen Smart, Diana Wheatley and Linda Palmer attended with a further 11 plot holders. Apologies for absence were received from Aslog Malmberg, Tom Worthington, Samantha France, Sarah Winstanley, Janet and John Mehers, Tom and Lisa Gledhill, Lynda Ellis, Nicky Bishop, Maureen Cross, Jo Nicholson, James Dawe and Tim Schultz, Kathy Patching and Rory Bewlay.

2) Confirmation of the notes of the AGM held on 26/04/18

The notes of the previous AGM had been circulated prior to this meeting and were agreed and adopted as a true record. They will now be posted on the website.

3) Chairman's Report

A written report had been circulated to all tenants prior to this meeting by Chairman John Ashton. He spoke to the main points:

The new arrangements for maintenance of common areas by some plot holders in exchange for a reduction in fees had worked very well, resulting in both an improved standard and an overall saving for the Association.

One highlight of the year had been the visit by approximately 150 people during the Gap Festival Open Gardens event.

John concluded that he believes the Society to be in 'rude health' in all respects. Strong finances, well maintained, with a proactive Committee organising more social events and community involvement.

As retiring Chair John encourage all plot holders to continue to support the Committee's efforts and for all to consider joining the Committee at some point.

4) Membership Secretary's Report

This had also been circulated prior to the meeting. Harry Beresford explained there had been some internal movement between plot holders during the year, and 2 plots had been allocated to new tenants. A plot diagram with names of tenants has been sent to all members. There are now 4 people on the waiting list. The names of all plot holders have been given to Goring Hardware so additional keys could be purchased if required.

Rental reminders will be sent out during the week beginning April 14th.

Harry encouraged all members, new and old, to participate in the working parties and social events.

5) Site Managers Report

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

He confirmed that all of the plot holders who undertook maintenance of the common areas last year had agreed to continue to do so.

No major projects are planned for the coming year as the site is in good order.

WJM Pest Control visits the site frequently and is keeping rodents under control by the use of traps and bait.

The annual hedge trimming took place at the end of January.

6) Treasurers Report.

A report on the budget and the statement of accounts up to 31/03/19 had been circulated to all prior to the meeting. Imogen Smart thanked the former treasurer George Lovering for managing the finances in past years and for his thorough and helpful handover. Imogen also expressed gratitude to Louise Schilizzi for inspecting the accounts.

The association currently has reserves of £900. Our income from plot fees has reduced due to the discounts offered for those undertaking maintenance; outgoing costs for maintenance and pest control are also considerably reduced.

Plot holders were encouraged to pay rental fees electronically if possible.

In response to a question from Chris King, John Ashton explained that our rent to Streatley Parish Council had been considerably less this year due to the return of a sum of money the Council had held in reserve when the Association was set up. In addition the previous rental paid had been for a 15 month period.

Sally Wicks suggested an application to Waitrose be considered as one of their instore local charities.

7) Social Secretary's Report.

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

Karen described her plans for a wild flower area in the corner between plots 24 and 38. Donations of seeds and bulbs would be welcome.

There was a general discussion about the setting up of a WhatsApp group for communication between plot holders who wish to be part of this. The idea was favourably received . Karen will invite all to join.

The Society will again be represented at the Streatley Parish Assembly in May and at the Parish Forum.

The Village Greenfingers club will be visiting the site on the evening of Wednesday July 3rd.

The next Allotment Supper is provisionally booked for Sunday September 15 th. It is hoped this enjoyable event will be as well attended as usual.

8) Matters to be decided

This refers to the documents outlining budget and fee levels.

The budget was unanimously accepted by those present .

9) Nominations for and Election of the committee.

John Ashton and George Lovering both retired at this meeting.

There had only been one nomination for the committee therefore Joni Holt's membership from this meeting was confirmed.

An additional volunteer would be very welcome at any time during the year.

The Committee for 2018-19 is:

Imogen Smart, Treasurer
Harry Beresford, Membership secretary
Peter Barefield, Site Manager
Karen Morton, Social secretary
Linda Palmer, Goring representative, Committee secretary
Aslog Malmberg , Streatley Parish Council
Diana Wheatley
Joni Holt

In the short term the role of Chairperson will be managed between the current committee members.

10) AOB

Chris King showed the meeting a receipt from Sue Ryder for almost £50, the sum raised from the produce table. Chris reminded all to continue to put surplus produce, seeds etc on this table for others to use in exchange for a charity donation.

The Committee will provide a waterproof container for seed packets.

At the conclusion of all business a vote of thanks was offered to both George Lovering and to John Ashton for their years of service to the Society. They were presented with gifts funded by donations from plot holders.

Following a break for refreshments and for people to purchase from the seed table there was a short talk by Gill McGahan, co -chair of the Heart of Streatley Charitable Trust. Gill explained the funding that had been obtained and the plans to increase biodiversity in the Meadows. Two areas have been designated for the cultivation of wild flowers . Rare breed sheep will be allowed to graze in the Meadows.

Tim Chatterton then talked about the Sustainability Group. There are plans for an e bike trial day in the villages. On May 30th , in the Belleme Room , there is to be a meeting to consider the future of farming.