

## **ELM ROAD ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION.**

### **MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

**HELD SATURDAY JULY 11<sup>TH</sup> 2020 AT ELM ROAD ALLOTMENTS SITE 13:30 Hrs.**

28 Association Members attended along with some partners and family

*(The Association Member is the named individual who holds the sub-tenancy and pays the rent)*

- 1) Jim McSherry the 2019-2020 Chair opened the meeting.
- 2) The minutes from 2019 A.G.M (published on the website since 2019) were approved.
- 3) Election of Officers took place. Elected unopposed were:
  - Jim plot 60 – Chair 2020-2021
  - Lyn plot 17 – Lettings Officer 2020-2021
  - John Plot 76 – Honorary Treasurer 2020-2021
- 4) KT (Plot 61) volunteered and was elected to the Committee with interests in Social Events and Special Projects.
- 5) The Chair gave his annual report orally, this included conveying the success of the working parties in Autumn 2019 and Spring 2020 who took on tasks such as the levelling of paths and cutting of overgrown brambles.
- 6) Chair also referred to and described the work involved with respect to existing roles on the Committee, in addition to existing contributions from members that were required to ensure the effective running of the site.
- 7) Descriptions of the roles required included: the organising of social events, removal of refuse, project managing, assistance with plot inspections, organising the cleaning and emptying of the site's W.C. and input onto the Association's website. Members who felt they could contribute were invited to volunteer.
- 8) Several Members then kindly volunteered to take on some roles. In addition to the Officers and Committee members above the following Committee Associates came forward:
  - Pat Plot 51 to organise the emptying of our site's W.C.
  - Niall Plot 30B the organisation of refuse removal in Nov/Dec and the periodic upkeep of the website.

Sarah plot 42A, offered to assist with inspections.  
David 45A to look after the Association's fleet of wheelbarrows  
Ian plot 31A offered to assist with the negotiations between the Council and the site for the lease renewal.

It was also noted that Nigel plot 73 has kindly agreed to continue to clean the W.C. on a regular basis.

- 9) Nigel had heroically continued to undertake the toilet cleaning all the through the Covid 19 lockdown, when the site was particularly busy. As a result, in recognition of this essential contribution to the community, the AGM agreed with the suggestion that a one off thank you payment of £50.00 be made to Nigel.  
Please Note: Nigel is actually donating all this money by way of supporting the forthcoming social to be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September, for the purchase of raffle prizes.
- 10) Meeting advised of the success of the working parties, and that more working party dates would be arranged for the autumn 2020 and spring 2021.
- 11) Meeting informed of future planned site improvements, these included the continuous improvement of paths, the proposed renovation of the woodchip and manure corral at the Elm Road gate end. There is also an idea for a future project to erect a covered shelter on the communal area.
- 12) The Treasurer gave his report, already previously published on the website, and attendees were advised, that if you took the current income from rents, the site currently operated at a loss, although there were historical reserves. The current capital reserves existed from a historically low spend with little money being directed to site improving projects. The current Committee had in the last couple of years organised improvements and were keen and active with and where appropriate, the assistance of Members in continuing to commission projects to improve the site for the benefit of all.
- 13) It was conveyed to the meeting that there had been no rent increase since 2009. In order to undertake projects such as the renovation of the corral, in addition to covering repeated expenditure such as water, refuse removal and the rent of the site it was necessary to increase the rents this October from 28 pence a square metre to 40 pence a square metre. It was also highlighted that the lease of the site with the Royal Borough of Kingston was due for renewal, this although not known could involve an increase in the rental charges by the Council for the site. The grass cutting costs although reasonable are also increasing due to including suitable side and back paths into the cutting programme.
- 14) It was emphasised how mindful plot holders should be with respect of the use of water. That apart for the need to consider the environment issues

surrounding water usage, this expenditure was very costly to members. Plot holders should not use hose pipes that were leaking or water in the middle of the day.

- 15) Members were advised that there are exceedingly long waiting lists for plots. That there were currently three main lists in order of precedence: One from existing Members with small plots who wanted extra cultivating ground, One for residents residing in the KT3 area and another for those who resided outside the KT3 area.

### **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

- 16) Sherry from plot 85 has asked due to the long distance of her plot from a water tank, if she could have a tank installed near her plot. Advised in the first instance to obtain costs and full details for submission to the Committee for consideration.
- 17) The matter of site security was raised by a Member, expressing her feeling of vulnerability especially at night when there were few people on the site, caused by the combination the entrance gates not being changed, providing easy access to strangers. It was concluded that the only way towards combating this problem was to keep reminding members of how vital it is to alter the combination slightly when using the padlock.

### **GIFTS TO NONAGENERIAN MEMBERS**

- 18) In celebration of them both reaching the age of 90 this year gifts were presented to Donald Plot 36B and Ron plot 52. It was noted how these two gentlemen are an inspiration to all by continuing to garden even at their advanced ages.
- 19) The meeting ended with a reminder that later that day there was a Social with refreshments at 5pm on the communal plot. Thanks were also conveyed to members Dan Plot 35B and Miyoo plot 83 for working to organise the food and refreshments for the July Social.

AGM Meeting ended at 14:30 hrs  
Minutes taken by Lyn