

ELM ROAD ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION.
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
HELD JULY 6TH 2019 AT ELM ROAD ALLOTMENTS SITE 13:00 hrs.

1. Jim McSherry acting chair opened meeting and thanked those who were present. He also advised the meeting of historic difficulties in previous years of achieving enough numbers of members to hold and minute a viable AGM.
2. Prior to the election of officers taking place, the Acting Chair and the Treasurer informed the meeting of what these jobs involved. Also, why assistance was required for those people currently undertaking the officer's jobs to ensure the continued running of the site by the Association.
3. The Acting Chair and the Treasurer explained that it was appreciated that work commitments and lifestyles were a constraint for members devoting time to assist. The current secretary was standing down due to other commitments. Unfortunately, from the entire membership there were very few individuals carrying out any of the essential tasks. That for the Association to continue in years to come, keep its independence and retain the power to run the allotments it was vital that there were members able and willing to assist. There was also a need for practical help from members with practical skills. The request for assistance was to ensure there would be a long future for the Elm Road Allotments Association. The main roles are Treasurer, Lettings Officer, Secretary and Chair.
4. The election of officers, resulted in Jim McSherry, being elected as Chair, John Palmer, Treasurer for a 6 month period only to be reviewed in January 2020 and Lyn Edwards as Lettings Officer.
5. The meeting was also reminded of an e - mail that went to the membership asking for assistance and explaining that remuneration could be made in the form of a rent rebate.
6. Three members of the Association came forward at the meeting and kindly offered to assist the Treasurer and Lettings Officer. Another member has offered to assist after January 2020.
7. The meeting thanked Nigel who did a wonderful job regularly cleaning the W.C. A rebate in rent was arranged for undertaking this vital task.
8. Meeting informed that Matiss (a landscape contractor as well as an Association member) undertook the grass cutting and was paid for it.
9. The Chair advised Members present of two facilities that were available for membership use as follows:

(a) Malden and Coombe Horticultural Society Trading Hut. Jim McSherry who does the ordering and works in the hut during its opening hours, advised that if he was on site when the hut was closed, he could open it up if a member wanted to make a purchase.

(b) Manure and woodchip were delivered to the site available at no cost on a first come first served basis.

10. The Treasurer gave an oral summary of his report which had already been published and circulated to the Membership and advised that in this financial year no major projects had been undertaken, resulting in there still being significant surplus funds in the Association's account. Therefore, the rents would not be increased this year. He also advised the meeting of the current major items of expenditure:

- Water usage, meeting informed that this was a major cost and that it was an expensive facility that should not be wasted.
- The disposal of rubbish, that some members dumped their domestic waste, such as kitchen units and mattresses onto the allotments. This resulted in high costs for its removal. That there should be no domestic items on the site.
- Rent to the local authority for the use of the site.
- The emptying of the communal W.C. by a specialist company.

11. Meeting advised that the Committee considered one project the priority for the coming year. This is where necessary to level and improve the paths between and leading to back plots. The works would commence by identifying paths where senior citizens held allotments. Once completed the paths could be introduced into the grass cutting programme. A date for a working party will arranged to start on the first identified path.

12. Meeting informed that the lease for the site was up for renewal and would be renegotiated once the Council had made contact.

13. Meeting ended at 14:00 hrs.