

ELM ROAD ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at 11am on Saturday 8th July 2017 on the Communal Plot, Elm Road Allotments

Apologies

Apologies were received from Committee members Terry Card (Chairman) and Nic Fearon-Low (Committee member).

The meeting was chaired by Committee member Jim McSherry in the absence of the Chairman.

AGM minutes

The minutes of the 2016 AGM were approved.

Committee membership

(a) Election of Officers of the Association

The following plotholders were re-elected as officers for 2017-2018:-

Chairman	Terry Card (plot 51)
Lettings officer	Lyn Edwards (plot 17)
Secretary	Susan Baker (plot 58)
Treasurer	John Palmer (plot 76)

(b) Election of additional Committee members

The following plotholders were re-elected as additional Committee members for 2017-2018:-

Jim McSherry	(plot 60)
Jose De Jesus	(plot 63)
Nic Fearon-Low	(plot 27)

The following plotholders were elected as additional Committee members for 2017-2018:-

Alex Pavlovic	(plot 15)
Mrs Kim	(plot 2)

(c) Doreen Wickens

The Acting Chairman reported that Doreen Wickens (who unfortunately was not present due to an injury) had stood down from the Committee after more than 20 years acting as both Treasurer and Lettings Officer. The meeting thanked her for all her work on the Committee and also her endless work along with her husband Jim in providing food at many allotment events. To recognise her service a Burgon & Ball RHS Stainless Trowel and an engraved vase (which were shown to the meeting) had been purchased and would be delivered to her together with flowers.

Chairman's report

The Acting Chairman gave a report for the year, the main points being:-

- (a) there had been an improvement in the condition of plots;
- (b) there were currently 5 people on the waiting list for plots but, after allocating the currently vacant plots, there should be hardly anyone left on the waiting list;
- (c) there is a new Association website – provided free via a platform provided by Kingston Council. The Treasurer had been on a course regarding setting up the website. Nic Fearon-Low would be the Webmaster. The website would be the first port of call for communications with the plotholders. The website address is <https://e-voice.org.uk/elmroadallotments/>
- (d) A new noticeboard had been installed at the communal plot thanks to John Palmer. Another might be placed at the Crescent Road entrance. These noticeboards would be the second line of communication.
- (e) The cutting of communal paths was being done on a more regular basis.
- (f) Half of the dip (water) tanks had been cleaned and levelled and serviced by Terry Card and his father.

Treasurer's report

The Treasurer reported that the accounts were available on the website and noticeboard. He gave a brief summary of income and expenditure. The net surplus for the year was £1,347, the accumulated surplus carried forward being £7,245. If plotholders had any comments they should send them to the Treasurer or Secretary.

Committee action plan for 21017-18

The Acting Chairman reported on the following planned actions:-

- (a) The remaining dip tanks to be serviced during the winter;
- (b) Installation of an additional water source to improve water pressure. Preliminary research had been undertaken by Terry Card via Kingston Council and the water company;
- (c) Due to the high failure rate of the current entry padlocks (costing £90 each) there would be a move to combination locks exclusive to the allotment site. The changeover would take place on Saturday 2nd September. All plotholders would be notified of the entry code.
- (d) Plots would be renumbered to reflect the subdivision of some plots. Plot number signs would be sourced. The Committee was investigating means of attaching them on each plot.
- (e) The Committee was considering extending grass cutting to broader plot paths but there were practical issues.
- (f) There would be a clearance bonfire in the autumn. No carpets, metal, glass, plastic or items from home would be permitted. In addition there would be a rubbish collection for other non-bonfire rubbish from the plots only. The dates for both the bonfire and collection would be notified to plotholders.
- (g) There would be another plot inspection in September. Warning letters to any neglected plots would be sent by email. If no action was taken after the warning the lease of the plot would be terminated.
- (h) A water use policy was about to be issued. The Secretary read out the policy. All plotholders should read it. It would be placed on the website and on the

noticeboard. From October 2017 any ploholders considered to be using excessive water would be subject to a “high water use” surcharge.

Any other business

(a) Hut

Jim McSherry reported that an arrangement had been made with the Malden & Coombe Horticultural Society hut on the site. Ploholders could purchase items from the hut without being a member of the society. During the week, when the hut was closed, if Jim McSherry (plot 60) was around he could deal with purchases as he had access to the hut.

(b) Website

Suggestions were made by ploholders for content of the website:-

- (i) A Forum for ploholders to exchange growing problems/suggestions
- (ii) Advice for new ploholders about what to grow on the site and how to deal with weeds.

There being no other business the meeting closed.

Contact emails

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