

TUDOUR ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION AGM 2026 MINUTES

Meeting held on Tuesday 21st April at Willoughby Arms, Willoughby Rd, Kingston,
KT2 6LN

Committee members present:

Paul Hay – Chairman

Lynn Boyd – Treasurer

Nathalie Ashbee – co-opted, Park Road – website

Jim Turner – Site Supervisor, Park Road

Jonny Hoare – Site Supervisor, Park Road

Richard Post – Site Supervisor, Wolsey Drive

Mary Gledhill – co-opted, Wolsey Drive – maintenance

Amanda Reader – co-opted, Wolsey Drive

1.Apologies

Chris Ridout – Site Supervisor, Wolsey Drive

Peter Brown – Secretary

2.Minutes of the AGM 26th April 2025 and matters arising

Suggestion of having a site for holding wood chip deliveries at Wolsey Drive was investigated but found to be unfeasible due to access issues and the lack of a suitable plot.

It was suggested that “No Mow May” be observed at both sites. This is not applicable at PR as there are no grass paths. At WD the paths need to be mown to maintain access; it was felt there were enough wild areas left un-mown for wildlife.

3.Chairman’s Report

PH felt he had very little to say this year as activities at both sites are covered in supervisors’ reports.

There is an issue with our soil which is covered in item 6.

Last year’s glorious summer provided a great harvest. Our water usage went up significantly due to lack of rainfall.

PH had re read the constitution and has reflected on the agreed membership of the committee: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, plus 2 Site Supervisors and 2 co-opted members for each site. This meant a review of roles at WD with Chris and Richard

as official supervisors and Amanda as co-opted, which left a vacancy for a co-opted member which has been filled by Mary as leader of Sid's army.

PH explained how WD operates with 4 supervisors, because of its large size, with a quadrant each, an arrangement which works well.

The committee meets 3-4 times a year and communicates via WhatsApp and email.

Much time has been spent over the past 6 months on the issue of soil quality.

4.Treasurer's Report

LB referred to a pie chart, which showed that over half of expenditure went on water costs, due to the dry summer. We needed better arrangements to harvest rainwater at both sites.

Income from 2024 was £8000, income from 2025 was up at £10149.

The extra raised income was to cover the increased water charges. In past years the water had not been metered, and so use was not monitored. Water turned off during winter months, so it is possible to see just how much is spent on water during growing season.

Headline figures for expenditure in 2025: £3000 on water, £2295 on site maintenance, £1500 rental for sites to RBK.

Site maintenance budgets covered the costs of skip hire, locks and tree pruning. Site maintenance had been set at a limit of £5000 so there was a large underspend.

Rental has increased from £12 a rod to £14 a rod. Rental increase in the future may depend on how much work needs doing on the sites, and how much can be done by plot holder volunteers as opposed to paid labour.

The contingency fund is £31000, some of this is monies held as key deposits. The last large expense was new fencing at Wolsey Drive some years ago.

5.Membership report

Compiled by CR presented by PH

Full waiting list currently stands at 107 individual open applications received via the TAA website.

This is split between:

- 86 Park Road
- 55 Wolsey Drive
- 34 want either.

There have been 7 applications this calendar year to date. 2025 had 45 applications for the full year.

PR currently issuing plots from to applicants from June 202, meaning there is a 5 year wait for a plot.

WD currently issuing plots to applicants from August 2024, meaning a wait of 18 months.

The turnover rate at PR is much lower so wait could be much longer in reality.

6. Soil Testing

PH explained the history and reason for soil testing. A new plot holder had discovered that a large bonfire had taken place on his plot and decided to test the soil quality at his own expense. The levels of lead and arsenic were found to be extremely high and so he was allocated another plot (which had far lower levels). It was decided to take the first plot out of cultivation.

PH explained that the recommended safe level of lead for cultivation of plants on allotments in the UK is set at 80 parts per million (ppm). Despite this, levels of lead of 100-300 ppm are widely found in soils across London. There could be many reasons for this including the use of lead petrol, coal fire ash and lead paint. WD has only ever been used as allotments and was previously an orchard. RP explains that all soils contain a range of elements, but this particular plot was found to be high in lead and arsenic, possibly because pesticides containing lead and arsenic were used in the past to eradicate moths from cherry trees. Their usage was phased out in the 1960s and replaced with DDT.

It was decided that, to allay fears, a working party would be set up to investigate the soil on both sites. Samples were taken, 7 from PR and 15 from WD; five cores for each sample were mixed sieved and then analysed by a professional accredited laboratory at a cost of £100 per sample. The average lead results were 129 ppm for PR and 187 ppm for WD.

PH explained that a recent case in Newcastle had found lead levels of 500ppm in allotment soil, but that a study comparing the levels of lead in the blood of plot holders eating allotment-grown vegetables with the blood of people eating supermarket produce showed no discernible difference between the two groups.

PH had contacted the National Allotment Association who advised washing hands and produce, adding organic matter to the soil to dilute the lead content and possibly considering raised beds. Root vegetables may take up more chemicals so thorough washing and scrubbing was advised before eating.

RP commented that the recommended safe level for lead in residential soil is set at 200ppm, so both sites are below that level (PR 129ppm and WD 187ppm). The recommended levels for allotments have been criticised as being too low as many urban areas would be excluded.

The finding of the working party will be made available on the website.

RP and Andy Trethewey (WD plot holder and chemist) were thanked for all the work they did on soil sampling.

The plot which originally led to concern has been removed from cultivation and it has been suggested that sun flowers be grown there this year as they help to remove lead from the soil but would need removing from site once they had flowered.

7. Site Supervisors reports

Park Road

JT and JH reported that they had a skip last year which has resulted in less rubbish on site.

There will soon be one new allotment holder and another plot will become vacant in October. One member has done some voluntary work through their job resulting in clearing the drive and beds at the front entrance. An area has been cleared by the toilet for another water tank.

The on-going issue with over hanging trees on the boundary fence has not been resolved. Park Gate House management have been contacted and have carried out a survey but to date no tree surgery has taken place.

JT explained that they are looking into replacing the small and aged dip tanks but have yet to find a suitable supplier. The cost would be around £350 a tank. More water butts will be added to the sheds.

The doors on the sheds need replacing.

The gate lock has an issue which JT will try to resolve.

Wolsey Drive.

RP reported that there had been 3 site supervisors reviews of plots in May, June and September.

Annual maintenance work included wheelbarrow servicing, with partial success. Sid's Army has maintained the grass. Four water tanks needed servicing due to overflow issues and sludge clearance. A working party cleared brambles etc from the perimeter fence in March. Two bonfires were held on site, one in November and one in March. Minor tree surgery was carried out in November. The 2 skips in March were heavily used and much rubbish was removed from the site.

A pergola was erected on the community plot in May paid for by funds raised in honour of Sid Mullet's memory. Two social events were held, a summer solstice party and a bonfire party in November, both well attended.

Water was turned off between November and March. Soil sampling took place in March.

Thank you to Richard Tapper for maintaining the iris bed.

8. Election of the committee

PH advised that the committee were all willing to stand again and were duly re-elected for the coming year.

9. AOB

LB thanked John Miller for his assistance in preparing the accounts.

MG said rota for mowing will be issued shortly and called for any new recruits for Sid's army. She will demonstrate safe use of any equipment.

PH thanked Mary for all her work on the maintenance.

JH raised the issue of making the sites assets of the community value. A process which is applied for online every 5 years. This gives a 6-month pause/review should there be any proposal to sell the sites. Two other sites in the borough have applied so far, JH will apply for PR and Lindsey volunteered to apply for WD.

Erica thanked those who had helped her out on her plot whilst she was busy with care issues. She praised the WhatsApp group as being a great community asset.

Andy T asked about water leakage and RP reported that it was less than last year, with only a small loss.

KHS plant sale 16th May 2-4 pm