



TAMWORTH FARM ALLOTMENT SOCIETY.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Sunday 13th November 2020, 2pm

Tamworth Farm Allotments - Rose Avenue Community Shed

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of the AGM held on Sunday 7th November 2021
3. Chair's Report
4. Presentation of the annual accounts 30th September 2022
5. Election of President and Committee of Management
6. President's remarks
7. Chair's closing remarks

Attending:

Steffi Backhouse, Bernie Brown, Florin Cochintu, Elisabetta Constantini, Angelo Costa, Becky Ewens, Ian Holloway, Tom Greatrex, Julie Mallett, Hazel Norman, Kim Pugh, Tony Redpath, Jo Rodgers, Robert Rudolf, Marina Simeon, Bev Stansfield, Kathleen Stevens, Katy Willison

Apologies: Agatha Akyigyina, Zenobia Cowen-Davies, Joan Henry, Maxine Rhodes, Waltraud Taylor, Peter Terry, Trina Thompson, Martin Tollett,

1. Welcome

Jo Rodgers thanked everyone for joining and advised we are quorate for the 8th AGM since self-management.

2. Minutes from previous AGM

Minutes had been circulated previously and were unanimously approved.

3. Chair's Report

A document entitled "TFAS PRIORITIES FOR 2021/2022: AN UPDATE ON OUR WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS" was included in the AGM documents issued, highlighting the scope for the year 2021-22. Priorities were grouped into 5 areas:

1. Enhanced communications and accountability
2. Improved financial procedures
3. Better site security
4. Enhanced facilities for members
5. Updates and miscellaneous work

Of the items, 17/28 (just over 60%) have been successfully completed to date, 8/28 (just over 28%) are underway, pending completion and 3/28 (just over 10%) are still to be started.

The Community Toilet was most successful as it had been a long-standing requirement on site and the most popular item voted for on the project list in 2019. Grant funding has enabled us to provide this facility without exhausting our own TFAS funds.

Questions on the report followed as noted:

Marina asked for further details on the community kitchen. This being a project to potentially build an outdoor kitchen facility for events including wash up, cooking area for gas hob and safe space for BBQ.

Bernie asked about water saving issues given the high cost to TFAS of the water bill and also about the green waste bay on the Farm. We touched on how both water harvesting and composting will be key areas of focus next year in terms of education and mini projects. (The Borehole Project was mentioned and discussed later in the meeting – see below). It was confirmed that the bay will be retained in its current location for the time being, and as plot holders begin to self-manage their green waste, we hope there is a time when this space can be developed into something else.

Elisabetta suggested partitioned waste bays for better waste management. It was agreed that education needs to be major part of this incentive and Julie invited anyone interested to set up a group to research good composting policy. Rob noted that our site is one of the better managed sites in Merton with this respect.

Kim asked if we could switch off the water and rely on the water tanks making plottolders more careful about how much they use but it was advised that we are not able to isolate tanks from the mains. Water is switched off at one place which closes supply across the site.

Kathleen asked about the date for the next skip. Katy explained it would be in the spring and that unfortunately the last skip delivery was full after we put the fly tipped rubbish plottolders had left on Rose Avenue so general plottolder waste wasn't able to be removed on that day.

The Borehole Project: Tony ran through the short document sent out with brief details about how this might work for the site, feasibility, costs and possible outcomes. `early days yet and quite a bit of initial research to be done. A discussion followed with Florin and Bernie bringing some interesting thoughts and experience to the conversation. They were invited to follow this up with Tony and Rob later in order to investigate this further. If the borehole is feasible it will free up considerable funds each year for other major projects and work on the site.

4. Presentation of accounts

Detailed accounts had been circulated previously. Jo noted that taking out the grant funding for the toilet the accounts are in a healthy place.

There were no questions or queries and so the accounts were approved unanimously.

5. Election of Officers

A paper had been sent out noting that Hazel Norman was happy to stand as our President again and the following committee members are willing to stand again:

- Jo Rodgers
- Steffi Backhouse
- Rob Rudfelt
- Julie Mallet
- Tony Redpath
- Beverley Stansfield
- Waltraud Taylor

Tony Redpath advised that those present would be invited to approve nominations to the Committee. At its first meeting (which would be chaired by the President) the Committee would appoint the Chair and Secretary and allocate roles to other Committee members.

Julie Mallett added that the committee is a volunteer role with expected attendance of 75% of meetings however the workload is shared amongst the team. Members were invited to let the Committee know if they were interested in joining.

Elisabetta Constantini proposed to stand, and Tom Greatrex expressed an interest but is currently unable to join for a couple of months due to work pressures.

Jo Rodgers, Robert Rudfelt, Julie Mallett, Tony Redpath, Bev Stansfield, Waltraud Taylor, Steffi Backhouse and Elisabetta Constantini all confirmed as committee members and will meet 14th November for first meeting.

6. President's Remarks

Hazel thanked those present for voting for her again this year to continue as President. She remarked how fortunate and privileged we are to have the plots at a time when things can feel overwhelming. We must strive for sustainability and biodiversity.

7. Chair's Remarks

Jo thanked the committee, saying it had been a pleasure to be Chair, despite a tough few years we achieved so much. Jo advised that she is stepping down from the role to allow others to take a turn.

Steffi thanked Jo for her commitment to the society as Chair, bringing her long experience of the site, knowledge of our ploholders and the self-management transition, from which we have all benefitted. We look forward to continuing to move forward together on new and exciting projects in the next year.

Jo ended the meeting at 3pm inviting everyone to have refreshments.