



## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD AT 2PM ON SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**

### **Attending:**

Agatha Akigyina, Steffi Backhouse, Al Barrett, Anne Browne, David Cocks, Anita and Brian Conradi, Elisabetta Cosantini, Dionisio Corpuz, Jaime Dantes, Becky Ewens, Zul Hanafiah, Ian Holloway, Julie Mallett, Alix Parker, Kim Pugh, Anthony Redpath, Maxine Rhodes, Jo Rodgers, Robert Rudolf, Craig Sisterson, Bev Stansfield, Kathleen Stevens, Trina Thomson, Daniel Williams, Katy Willison.

### **1. Welcome**

Steffi Backhouse thanked everyone for attending.

### **2. Minutes from previous AGM**

Minutes had been circulated previously and were unanimously approved.

### **3. Chair's Report**

Steffi Backhouse referred members to her written report. She said the Society had had a good year. She updated members on the priorities. The fence had now been heightened in all vulnerable places, this had been a major project, and the Committee had worked hard to make it happen.

She encouraged all members to get to know and look out for their neighbours and to report when they see someone on a plot who should not be there.

Water continued to be a concern with prices rising and the possibility of the drought next year. Steffi encouraged all members to think about water capture on their plots.

On compost, there is a risk that the green waste bay collections may end. Merton Council may no longer offer this service, although the Committee is pressing them hard to continue, especially as six collections a year are written into our Management Agreement. Cllr Akigyina agreed to contact Merton officers to find out what was going on. It was agreed that bonfires could help reduce the production of green waste as long as these are managed responsibly. Members on Rose Avenue would benefit from exploring the shared use of incinerators. We continue to encourage everyone to compost on their own plots or use the new communal area on Rose Avenue. The Committee agreed to consider feasibility of setting up a similar communal area on the Farm.

The plant sale had once again been a big success raising around £1000, we will do another next spring.

Lastly, she informed plot holders that our President, Hazel Norman, was stepping down this year. The AGM offered their thanks to Hazel for all her hard work and commitment.

#### **4. Presentation of accounts**

Draft accounts were circulated with the meeting papers. Katy Willison explained the different elements that made up the budget, with water costs and maintenance being the largest items. We had not yet been charged in full yet for water this year because the meter had been disconnected. We have informed Wave Water and have set aside money in case we are charged retrospectively. Katy assured plot holders that we had good reasons to be confident that any retrospective bill would be affordable.

Katy explained the rigorous procedures that the Committee had in place to ensure all spending is approved and accounted for and invited anyone with concerns or questions to let the Committee know.

The draft accounts were unanimously approved.

#### **5. Decision whether to audit the accounts**

Anthony Redpath explained the provision included in the TFAS rules requiring the AGM to decide whether the accounts should be audited. He invited members to make their own decision whether an audit was necessary and value for money. Committee members would exclude themselves from the decision. An anonymous ballot was held in order not to place any pressure upon members. The votes were then counted in the presence of an independent member, three votes in favour of an independent audit, 15 votes against. On that basis, it was agreed by vote not to commission an audit this year.

#### **5. Election of President**

Phil Smith put himself forward (in absentia) for election as President and was duly elected with none opposed.

#### **6. Election of Officers**

Members were invited to consider whether they wished to join the Committee. The rules allowed additional appointments to be made between AGMs and members were invited to contact the Committee if they were interested in joining or if they wished to attend a meeting as an observer.

Two people put their names forward as new Committee members: Craig Sisterson and Kathleen Stevens. Last year's eight Committee members confirmed they were happy to stand again.

On a unanimous vote, Members approved the appointment of the two new and eight existing Committee members who had put their names forward for re-election:

- Steffi Backhouse
- Elisabetta Costantini
- Julie Mallet
- Jo Rodgers
- Rob Rudfelt
- Beverley Stansfield
- Tony Redpath
- Craig Sisterson
- Kathleen Stevens
- Katy Willison

## **7. Other business**

The meeting ended at 3pm.

