



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT 2PM ON SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2023

Attending:

Steffi Backhouse, Bernie Brown, Elisabetta Constantini, Angelo Costa, Becky Ewens, Ian Holloway, Julie Mallett, Hazel Norman, Kim Pugh, Tony Redpath, Robert Rudolf, Bev Stansfield, Kathleen Stevens, Walli Taylor, Barbara Adolph, Peter Terry, Tirso Rafael, Jaime Dantes, David Waterson, Martin Tollett

Apologies: Jo Rodgers, Katy Willison, Sally Laing, Martin Beaver

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 and highlighted the many occasions on which neighbouring plot holders had helped and supported one another. Steffi said she felt privileged to be a member of the Society and to be its Chair. In the coming year the Committee intended to continue its work to improve site security, reduce TFAS water costs and support members' efforts to compost on their plots.

4. Presentation of accounts

Draft accounts were circulated with the meeting papers. Members asked whether the Committee had decided to increase the charge for water costs in order to fund work to reduce water usage. Steffi explained that the amounts plot holders were charged for their plots and water rates were based on an annual rate per rod that was determined by the Council rather than the Committee.

The draft accounts were unanimously approved.

5. Decision whether to audit the accounts

Tony Redpath reminded members of the provision included in the new set of rules adopted in May requiring the AGM to decide whether the accounts should be audited. He said that Committee members would exclude themselves from the decision and invited those present to vote on the issue. Members were unanimous in deciding not to commission an audit this year.

In response to a member suggestion the Committee undertook to consider ways to introduce an anonymous vote on this issue for future AGMs.

5. Election of Officers

Hazel Norman confirmed that she was happy to stand for election as President again and her election to this post was supported by all present.

Members also approved the appointment of eight existing Committee members who had put their names forward for re-election:

- Steffi Backhouse
- Rob Rudfelt
- Julie Mallet
- Jo Rodgers
- Katy Willison
- Elisabetta Constantini
- Tony Redpath
- Beverley Stansfield

Walli Taylor was stepping down from the Committee and Steffi thanked her for her efforts, especially in securing a regular supply of free manure from which many plot holders on all three sites had benefitted.

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.

6. President's Remarks

Hazel thanked those present for voting for her again this year and said she was honoured to continue as President.

7. Other business

In response to a member suggestion the Committee undertook to consider asking people near the top of the waiting list whether they would be willing to act as a Garden Friend for existing members who needed support. This could provide a pool of additional Garden Friends and enable people waiting for plots to gain some experience of cultivating.

The meeting ended at 3pm and Steffi invited everyone to have refreshments.

ENDS