

ALLY PALLY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Sunday 9th July 2023

PRESENT: Alison Liney, John Wilkinson, Steve Shaw, Usuv Gilgil, Stavros Nicolaou, Sophie Lawton, Helen Finch, Jim Jenks, Ros Jenks, Peter Campbell, Jill Ellis, Sally Chubb, Geoff Palmer, Ruth Erskine. Pamela Harling, Jerome Connor, Clive Haworth, Liz Sagar.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Hilary Thomas, Theresa Ball, Christine Heath, Bob Hare, Angela Silva-Jones, Jenny Bourne Taylor, Roland Ward, Jacquie Sawford. Chris Fox.

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

1. **Minutes of the AGM 2022:** Anita's surname, Frizzarin, was added to the record of members present. The minutes were then formally accepted as being a true record of last year's AGM, nem con.

2. Reports

Chair's report

My role here is to thank those that have contributed their time and effort to the running of the allotments. To thank them and to hope that they will continue to help out in the coming years

I also need to encourage those who have not yet taken part to try it at least once. You'll get to know other plot-holders and that is a very good thing. We are a community who cannot rely on Local Government to do many of the things that make the allotments such a pleasant place to be. I'd even say we should not rely on outside help when we have the human resources to be able to accomplish much ourselves.

The third part of my role is to encourage plot-holders to step up and consider joining the committee. We need people from all parts of the site to be involved and the more diverse a committee is the closer its decisions will be to the wishes and feelings of all plot holders.

The fourth element is to be brief and to the point!

I'm not going to read out the gratifyingly long list of names of those who have contributed, largely for fear of missing someone out but I want to thank the committee by name (Alison Liney (site secretary), Bob Hare, Peter Campbell, Clive Haworth, Chris Fox, Robin Howorth (biodiversity), Ruth Erskine, Sally Chubb, Steve Shaw (treasurer.) and those joining the work parties; to thank those running the Trading Shed, those unloading the deliveries, the café team, the bee-keepers, to the bio-diversity champions, the plumbers on whom we rely for our water supply.

Having said no names I can't ignore the unswerving efforts of Alison our site secretary and those of Peter Campbell for his Trading exploits and his work on the National Gardens Scheme and the dehydrating Toilet.

The year has seen a continuing rise in the efforts plot-holders are making to increase the productivity of their land whilst at the same time having regard to the need to support nature and wildlife.

Much of the community action (work parties, café days and the recent national garden scheme) are initially generated by the interests of individuals rather than being driven by the committee, which I

see as a very good thing. Certainly the numbers of people making the NGS day the success it was, was very impressive.

I encourage anyone with ideas for activities, or for work parties to bring them to the committee. We can help you make them happen....

There have been a number of challenges during the year, but the appointment of an Allotments Officer, Victoria Stones, has been a great help, and we are very lucky to have someone in that role who clearly cares very much about the allotments in Haringey.

Volunteers for the committee? Please step forward if you value an inclusive approach to running the allotments. Meetings are short (90 mins) and we meet 4 times a year. Try it and if you really don't like it, you can step away. I think you will stay on and enjoy getting a better idea about how the allotments work. New tenant? Not a problem. Do you think you don't know enough about allotments and growing? Not a problem. We all learn something by being on the committee. And we all started off as newbies.

The constitution requires that officers be nominated 7 days in advance of the AGM. There are no nominations so I think we'll be rotating the chair from among the committee this year. That will be one of the new committee's first decisions

I've only served a year as chair, which is lightweight compared to Bob and Peter, but I took on the role so that the committee could perhaps transition from chairs with huge commitment, deeply planted in allotment culture, to mere mortals like myself. Being chair is being a figurehead for the allotments and is at times an indispensable role, but we are none of us irreplaceable. I'd like a situation where each year we were able to call upon a pool of people who have acted as chair, so that as a committee we can be very resilient. If anyone wants to try the job I'd advise them to join the committee and take part in whatever rotating process the committee decides on. Ill bid farewell now and, to quote Douglas Adams, thanks for all the fish.

- John Wilkinson

Sally proposed acceptance of the report and Jill seconded. Carried.

Site Secretary's report

Waiting List 113 people including 4 on the "Long List" who have come to the top of the list and have to contact me when they are ready for a plot. If they do not renew their interest every January they are removed. The list has moved 13 places since June 2022. The next person to be contacted for a plot joined in June 2016. There have been 9 new applicants as a result of our Open Day last Sunday.

Lettings There are five new tenancies since last July. The committee gave up part of plot 29 Alexandra Park on which the polytunnel and the toilet are located. Two small plots were created and are now tenanted by Ignacio (Nacho) Pinilla & Angela Walter on 29A and Sue Hanson on 29C. Pam Jackson gave up her deeply shaded plot 45 Grove Lodge Meadow which has now been given to the association as a conservation area. Pam has moved to 10A GLM, smaller but sunnier! The three other new tenancies are Andrew Inglis and Jessica Claire, 4B The Nursery, Julie and Richard Gilmore, 4A The Nursery and Max Bains, 4B Alexandra Park.

Site Security - We had some trouble in October with the young man with large boots who begs outside the Co-op in Priory Road. He found a way in through the fence on plot 1 A.P. down by the bottom gate. We reinforced the fence and the local police spoke to him. There have been no sightings on the site since.

Plumbing – Peter Campbell, Stavros Nicolaou & Usuf Gilgil have this under control.

Green maintenance - Alex Lynch and Angela Silva-Jones continue to keep an eye on this and Tim Laskey is still employed occasionally. Gladys Osborne cuts the grass up from the car park and along beside

37 GLM. A Sunday work party did a lot to widen the top path and make it safer and Bob Hare trundles along with his mower when no one is around to be hit by flying stones!

62 Springfield Avenue – water draining onto the site through pipes in the new wall was a major concern. The Allotment Service contacted the householders and the pipes were eventually removed but the path beneath the wall has yet to be repaired. I have informed the allotment office.

Trees – The council dealt with two dead elms in the boundary below 5A A.P. I have yet to arrange for the removal of a small fallen willow on plot 8A A.P. Alexandra Park tree surgeons removed the dead wood overhanging 8 GLM.

Rubbish Clearance – Further thanks to the neighbours and friends of Peter Falzon who have helped to clear what he has accumulated, especially Steve Cooper who has transported rubbish to the recycling centre. There is still work to be done in the autumn when we will all have more time. The same group of tenants cleared Chris O'Keefe's shed when he gave up plot 4A in the Nursery. Chris is another tenant who is not well and needs help.

Council Administration and Allotments Forum - We have a new Allotments Administrator, Victoria Stones, who has so far carried out one full inspection of the site. The allotments forum, which is a voluntary group of site secretaries and representatives from Haringey allotment sites, has resumed meeting quarterly since October. Victoria and Alex Fraser, head of the Allotments Service, attend the meetings. It is an opportunity for us to hold council administration to account and for the Allotments Service to work with site secretaries to establish best practice.

As always, I'd like to finish by thanking all members of the committee for their help over the past year.

- Alison Liney, Site Secretary.

Ruth proposed acceptance of the report and Pamela seconded. Carried.

Treasurer's report.

Steve presented the **Accounts for 2022/23** (an Income and Expenditure sheet and Bank summaries).

At 1st April 2022 the bank balance stood at £10 023.

Income during the year totalled £13 023.

Expenditure totalled £7 817.

The allotment shop is the largest component of income / expenditure with a turnover of £6 965.

Overall there was a net surplus over the year of £5 206 which included a net surplus of £2 175 generated by the 2022 plant sale and a surplus of £2 697 from the allotment shop. The shop's surplus reflects bulk expenditure in stock late in the previous accounts year.

At 31st March 2023 the balance stood at £15 229.

Current Position

As of the beginning of July 2022 the bank balance stood at £15 710.

- Steve Shaw, Treasurer.

Sophie proposed acceptance of the report and Clive seconded. Carried.

Biodiversity report

Helen Finch gave an oral summary of work done by the Biodiversity group during 2022-23, under the leadership of Robin Howorth. She explained the importance of sustaining and improving biodiversity on the site. She also encouraged other members to join the group and to consider taking on the role of Biodiversity coordinator.

If you are interested in taking on the role of Biodiversity coordinator, or joining the group, then contact Sally Chubb, salchubb@icuknet.co.uk

Alison proposed acceptance of the report, seconded by John. Carried. There was a vote of thanks to Robin Howorth for his initiative and contributions to biodiversity on site.

Report from North London Bee-keepers

Gio Esposito submitted this written report about the North London Bee-keepers' apiary on our site: Our bee season started with us giving all hives on site a shook swarm meaning each hive was given a clean brood box with brand new frames inside. This was done to try and eliminate any lingering signs of disease that the bees had last year. All old frames were burned immediately and the old brood boxes were scorched thoroughly.

It's a big shock to the bees but they quickly settled and built out their new frames and all 4 hives are currently all doing very well.

One of our hives did swarm recently but was successfully collected. To try to control further swarms all queens are having their wings clipped which is completely harmless to them. It doesn't get them out of swarm mood just delays them but it means we can recognise the signs when we inspect on a weekly basis and do an artificial swarm on them.

Most hives are on their 3rd box of honey supers so the aim is to leave one box on Hive for winter feed and the rest we'll be extracting the honey.

Currently we have 4 hives but we aim to reduce to 3 later on in the season.

Steve Shaw proposed acceptance of the report, seconded by Sally Chubb. Carried.

3 Notification of two changes to the Tenants Handbook (local rules), to reflect changes in council policy.

First change Delete section 4 " Co-workers."

Add a section headed "Tenancy and Co-workers" to read:

4.1 "Co-workers will be allowed only in exceptional circumstances, due to a tenant's age, disability, injury or illness or other exceptional personal circumstance and with the agreement of the local Site Association. The registered tenant of an allotment plot may be permitted a maximum of two co-workers to assist in maintaining their plot for a specified period."

4.2 "All tenants should continue to attend frequently. Leaving most or all of a plot to be worked by co-workers or other persons constitutes 'occupation' of the plot and is forbidden by the terms of the tenancy agreement."

It was agreed that Alison would seek clarification of the clause 4.2 word "frequently" at the Allotments Forum.

Second change Section 17 "Alterations to your plot"

Add 17.3 "If you wish to move to another plot contact the site secretary who will consult the site committee as to the suitability of such a move."

4 Appointment of Officers and Committee 2023 - 24

The constitution allows for the committee to have up to 10 members, who can co-opt up to four others.

There were no new nominations for committee membership. All current committee members agreed to stand again: John Wilkinson, Bob Hare, Ruth Erskine, Peter Campbell & Sally Chubb. Clive Haworth & Chris Fox agreed to continue as a co-opted committee member. Steve Shaw agreed to

continue as Treasurer & Alison Liney as Site Secretary.

With John Wilkinson resigning as Chair, and nobody nominated to replace him, the Committee will need to decide at its September meeting how to allocate the role.

5 Any Other Business

Sally Chubb announced that collections for the local Food Bank will start again later this month.

In response to John's call for members to suggest useful ways of spending APAA funds, Sophie suggested purchasing some lightweight wheelbarrows.

With some kind words of thanks for his work as Chair during 2022-23, Steve presented to John a card signed by many members, together with a bottle that John might appreciate. The meeting endorsed this gesture with its thanks.

John closed the meeting.