

**DRAFT**

**Shepherds Hill Allotments Association  
AGM  
16th November 2021 at 7.00pm  
Zoom**

**Present:** Annie Griffiths, Julie Yogasundram (chair), Trevor Wyatt, Ian Potts, Jo Sheehan, Garry Doyland, Stephen Cushnir, Jill Russell, Juliet Mann, Jacky Wedgwood, Jo Murray, Paul Nairsby, Hugh Bodger, Gillian Reynolds, Fi Godfrey, Jenny Owen, Charles Sweeney, Elliot Hodges, Jane Bywaters, Mairead Masterson, Pauline Stockmans, John Robinson, Natalie Jones, Bruno Dore, Nevil Yildiz, Rebecca Harrington, Amy Gardner-Gibson, Liz Denver, Liane Payne, Jenny Gledhill.

**1. Apologies**

Amanda Lebus, Lynn Malloy, Gary Sycamore, Carol Uszkurat, Ben Joiner, Jane Ireland

**2. Minutes of 2020 AGM**

Approved. No matters arising.

**3. Annual Report**

Julie highlighted the key points from the Annual Report.

Questions/discussion points raised:

Update on the survey commissioned by Haringey into Japanese Knotweed on and around the site. Haringey have received the report and have indicated that they will arrange a meeting with plot-holders to discuss findings and recommendations. A couple of members expressed the view that Japanese Knotweed is not necessarily the problem that it's often presented as being, and had successfully removed it (NB not the recommended advice from Haringey).

Liz and Annie asked for views on whether the trading shed should stop selling John Innes, which contains peat. The meeting agreed that we should go completely peat-free. Some suggestions were made for alternatives to JI, such as Sylvagrow, or cococoir. The trading shed will do a trial stocking of Sylvagrow.

The committee had undertaken some research into Alexandra Palace site's decision to change their lock system, but had decided against changing ours, given the costs and practicalities involved, and other priorities for improving security. It was emphasised that any locking system must ensure easy access for emergency services.

**4. Treasurer's report**

Jo Sheehan summarised the Association's financial position, as set out in her treasurer's report. The meeting accepted the report, and Jo was thanked for her excellent reporting as our new treasurer.

A question was raised as to whether the claims on our insurance policy as a result of the spate of arson attacks earlier in the year resulted in higher premiums. There was no evidence of this in the last renewal in January; we will monitor this in January 2022.

## **5. Plans for 2022**

Julie summarised the plans for 2022 as itemised in the Future Plans report. Now the Barn is complete, the emphasis is on expanding its usage and on addressing major maintenance priorities (tree pruning on the boundary, improving the perimeter fencing, repair of roadways, addressing the crack in the trading shed).

The successive lockdowns over the past 18 months have prevented the usual regular maintenance working parties, but we hope these will get up and running again in 2022.

We will put a reminder in the next newsletter and on the noticeboards about everyone keeping ALL the footpaths around their plot clear so that they do not obstruct easy passage, particularly if people are pushing wheelbarrows and lawnmowers.

## **6. Elections for committee members**

Eight committee members re-stood for election: Stephen Cushnir, Garry Doyland, Annie Griffiths, Juliet Mann, Ian Potts, Jill Russell, Trevor Wyatt, Julie Jogasundram. Liz Denver proposed and Gillian Reynolds seconded the election of all those nominated and this was approved.

Amy Gardner Gibson stood down and the Chair thanked her for all the hard work and enthusiasm she brought to the committee during her year in office.

Jo Sheehan continues as a co-opted member and treasurer.

## **7. AOB.**

A reminder about the Winter Warmer on November 21<sup>st</sup>, and Potato weekend in February.

The committee is aware of other sites and councils that have introduced a complete bonfire ban, given the negative impact on the environment, and were keen to elicit views on whether SHAA should be considering a similar ban. While recognising the environmental arguments, several people thought that rather than a complete ban we should consider restricting burning to an absolute minimum (to be defined), that we need to ensure tenants are well informed about only burning dry wood which produces less pollutants and never any non-organic material, to consider helping people get rid of stuff if they don't have the means to take off-site, and to advocate the use of dead hedges wherever possible (see information on this on our website). It was pointed out that the woodburning stove in the Barn is ecodesign ready for forthcoming DEFRA regulations.