

SHA ASSOCIATION AGM 28TH APRIL 2024 MINUTES (draft)

Present: Geoff Clark, Emanuel Schembri, Tim McNaughon, Sonia Bell, Hannah Pearce, Jane Shallice, Martin ..? Natalie Jones, Sue Aldam, Jeff Somerfield, Diana Baker, Sue Webster, Beth Brown, Jill Pack, Gary Sycamore, Philip Chinn, Clare Ribson, Julia Grant, Richard Rogers, Ruth Galloway, Nicola Woodward, Lou Wright, Jane Bywaters, Jacky Wedgwood, Charles Sweeney, Adam Richards, Garry Doyland, Nevil Yildiz, Fiona Ashley Norman, Jenny Owen, Lucinda Carr, Tessa Bull, Jill Russell, Julie Yogasundram, Ian Potts, Jo Sheehan, Juliet Mann, Annie Griffiths.

Apologies for absence

Bruno Dore, Peter Till, Andy Wright, Marie Mangan.

Minutes of last AGM and matters arising

Approved and no matters arising.

Annual Report

Julie highlighted the key points from the annual report, summarising the main activities of the past year.

The committee is always looking for more people to volunteer ideas for Barn events and to help run them. All ideas welcome, please write into info@ or talk to a committee member. There are now lights and some limited power, which will extend the possibilities for events.

Annie reminded tenants to write into info@ or put suggestions in a book on the counter in the trading shed if there are items they would like the trading shed to stock.

Treasurer's report

Jo presented the annual accounts, showing a healthy balance of approx. £16,500. She highlighted the trading shed takings of nearly £7,000, demonstrating how well used the facility is. We raised just under £3,000 from fundraising activities, including the annual plant sale. And in addition to our annual grant from Haringey, we were awarded a grant of £1,964 for installing solar panels and lighting in the Barn.

Plans for 2024/25

One priority is repairing and improving the main track from Montenotte Rd. The committee has obtained a number of quotes, some of which have been unaffordable (in excess of £20K) and/or inappropriate (concreting the whole track). The best quote has been around £7K, based on £4K for labour and £3K for materials. One option is to go with this quote, using an outside contractor, another option is to save on the labour costs by using site volunteers.

Another priority is renovating/rebuilding the trading shed, which is in a poor state of repair.

And the third priority is to consider installing a toilet on site.

A very helpful discussion on these priorities, and how best to proceed, raised the following points:

- Recognising that the work involved is heavy labour, and therefore perhaps unrealistic to have expectations of a volunteer workforce.
- We have a healthy bank balance, and should see it as money to be used, rather than it sitting in the bank.
- The order in which we tackle these priorities is important – bringing in materials and heavy vehicles for renovating the trading shed is likely to have an impact on the track.
- Repairing the track, and providing a toilet on site are important for improving accessibility for all.
- Widespread support expressed for crowdfunding among plot holders being one way of raising additional funds.
- A new Lottery application should emphasise issues of accessibility and inclusion.
- While aiming to be as inclusive and community-oriented as possible, there's a need to recognise the more we open up e.g. the trading shed, the more work this puts on volunteers.

The committee have also prioritised the development of a communal green waste/composting area. The bees have moved to another plot and the old bee plot is now being cleared and composting bays built. We will be putting up signage and sending out reminders for plot holders to bring their green waste to Plot 83. The aim is to reduce burning on site (which many other sites and Councils have already banned) and eventually to produce our own communal compost.

Elections for committee members

The following committee members stood for re-election: Julie Yogasundram, Annie Griffiths, Jill Russell, Ian Potts, Juliet Mann, Trevor Wyatt, Garry Doyland, Nevil Yildiz, Jo Sheehan.

Gary Sycamore proposed and Charles Sweeney seconded the election of all those nominated and this was approved.

Up to two additional members can be co-opted onto the committee, and anyone interested please write into info@shepherdshillallotments.co.uk

AOB

The committee proposed to increase the annual trading shed subscription from £2/annum (which it has remained at for many years) to £5. This was approved.

A suggestion was made to ask plot holders to contribute to an honesty box in the trading shed when taking barrows of wood chip.

Annie reminded the meeting that there is a sheet in the Barn for people to add their names to volunteer to help with the community garden.