

Draft minutes of SHAA AGM 27th April 2025

Present: Sue Aldam, Yurika Kishida, Gary Sycamore, Dafne Solera, Fran Smith, Jenny Owen, Nick Whitaker, Lou Wrigth, Vivienne McNaughton, Kim Valdo, Bruno Dore, Juan Olarte, Stephen Lanfranchi, Sue Rich, Jill Pack, Susan Teece, Paul Naisby, Tim Macnaughton, Charles Sweeney, Geoff Clark, Julia Grant, Simon Allen, Fiona Godfrey, Richard Gledhill, Chris Bell, Andy Shaw, Clare Ritson, Phil, Alice Bennett, Miriam Bindman, Dave Cohen, David Schmitz, Catherine Tully, Simon Tarr, Natalie Jones, Diana Baker, Rachel Lambert, Duncan Kramer, Richard Cutbush, Anil Yogasundram, Nevil Yildiz, Jane Bywaters, Amanda Lebus, Magdalena Jennings, Ian Potts, Juliet Mann, Jill Russell, Julie Yogasundram (Chair), Jo Sheehan, Annie Griffiths, Colin Reading.

Apologies: Marie Mangan, Kathy Riddle, Tessa Bull, Mary Bratley, Peter Till, Andy Wraight, Trevor Wyatt, Garry Doyland, Liz Denver.

Minutes of last AGM and matters arising

Approved and no matters arising.

Annual Report (Agenda item 3)

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

- The range of Barn activities
- Our ongoing support for the Harington Scheme and the Hornsey Food Bank
- The recent exhibition of Peter Till's work at Hornsey library, raising an impressive £6,000 for the allotment
- The completion of two main maintenance priorities – a brand new trading shed, and a much improved main track from Montenotte Road. And lots of other ongoing maintenance jobs – repair of paths, fences, tree pruning, etc.
- The careful management of the waiting list, with waits now down to 2 – 3 years (compared with 6 – 7 years previously).

Questions were raised about the bonfire ban imposed during the year, and the use of the communal composting area. Mixed views were expressed about the bonfire ban, some supporting it and some against it. Some wondered if a compromise might be an occasional permitted communal bonfire, or bonfires only permitted in incinerators, although the policing of this and ensuring only dry material was burned was seen as problematic.

A question was raised about how to deal with hardwood. Ian explained that dead hedges have been created on the communal composting plot; it was agreed that it'd be useful to have another session similar to one a few years ago when someone from another site gave a talk about dead hedging.

Some tenants are finding it hard to use the communal composting area. One problem is that a dead hedge is blocking use of one of the bays; this needs to be removed at a maintenance working party. Another problem is the path up to the compost area, which can get slippery, even though we put down some hardcore to

improve this. We may need to consider putting down some bod paving or more hardcore. We also need to consider how to help those tenants that find it hard to transport their green waste to the compost area.

Julie thanked everyone for their comments and suggestions, which will be discussed at the next committee meeting and reported in minutes (available once approved on the SHA website).

Financial Report (Agenda item 4)

Jo presented her treasurer's report, showing that we ended the financial year with a healthy balance of £10,777.00. She highlighted the replacement of the Trading Shed, for which we were able to claim £4,500 from the insurance company for the damage caused by the fallen tree in July 2024. Another highlight was the significant increase in money raised through fundraising activities, a total of £4,034 compared with £2,844 in the previous year – evidence of the success of our annual plant sale and winter warmer, as well as the regular Sunday Barn events.

Plans for 25/26 (Agenda item 5)

Julie went through the listed plans for the forthcoming year, highlighting the priority maintenance jobs. One priority is making the fence more secure running along the side of the Montenotte Rd track and behind the woodchip bays. Although in theory Haringey are responsible for perimeter fencing the allotment officer has made clear that they do not have the funds to replace the fence. However they have agreed to contribute towards the cost of materials for our maintenance team to erect an inner fence.

The problem of shade on plots from overhanging trees from flats on Shepherds Hill was raised. Ian mentioned the possibility of the Council being able to consider complaints about high hedges; the committee will explore this.

There was a plea to remind all tenants of their responsibility to cut the grass on paths between plots and to keep paths bramble-free. A reminder will be put in the next site newsletter.

We will also explore the pros and cons and options for installing a toilet on site. This would not only be a convenience for tenants working on their plots, but also could open up more possibilities for longer events at the Barn. There was a show of hands indicating broad support for the idea of having a toilet on site, and even a volunteer for cleaning! The pros and cons of different types of toilet (composting, cess-pit, etc.) and issues of where it would be sited, how maintained, and cleaned, all need further research and discussion by the committee.

Bruno Dore pointed out that next year is the centenary year for the allotment site and it was agreed that we should certainly plan to mark the occasion with some special events. Jill Pack suggested one event could be a SHA horticultural show.

Julie ended this item by reminding everyone that the committee are always keen to hear new ideas for using the Barn, and for people to get involved with organising events.

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, Jo Sheehan. Liz Denver, who had previously been co-opted, also stood for election.

Colin Reading proposed and Gary Sycamore seconded the election of all those nominated and this was approved.

Nevil Yeldiz was appointed as a co-opted member.

The Constitution allows for up to two additional members to be co-opted onto the committee, which means there is one vacancy. Anyone interested to find out more please write into info@shepherdshillallotments.co.uk

AOB

Colin reminded everyone that the Apple Juice group will be collecting apples and making juice and cider vinegar in the autumn, so a good opportunity to bring along any surplus apples.

Juliet thanked Charles Sweeney for his continued work on maintaining the SHA website.