

Minutes of SHA AGM held on Sunday 26th April 2026

Present: Jill Pack, Geoff Clark, Margaret Jones, Paul Naisby, Jeff Somerfield, Diana Baker, Tim & Sonia Macnaughton, Jackie Cooper, Susan Teece, Fran Smith, Bobby & Annie Elsigood, Frances Johnson, Susie Heap, Debra Godding, Gary Sycamore, Charles Sweeney, Dafne Solera, Catherine & Simon Tully Tarr, Juan Olante, Stephen Lanfranchi, Jayne Bywaters, Charlotte Schulze, Beth Brown, Alex Z, Geoff Finch, Elizabeth Hess, Jo Murray, Sue Aldam, Sue Webster, Maria Emilia Jennings, Sue Westbrook, Tessa Bull, Nicola Woodward, Stephanie Davies, Andy Shaw, Charlotte Hall, Matthew Durbin, Natalie Jones, Bruno Dore, Colin Reading, Anil Yogasundram, John Robinson, Jill Russell, Julie Jogansundram (chair), Jo Sheehan, Liz Denver, Nevil Yildiz, Juliet Mann, Shazia Sardar.

Apologies: Jackie Wedgewood, Annie Griffiths, Kit Brown, Julia Grant, Peter Till, Fiona Godfrey, Jenny Owen.

Minutes of last AGM and matters arising

The minutes were approved. No matters arising.

Annual Report

Julie highlighted key points from the annual report. She noted the impressive sums of money raised at the annual plant sale, the winter warmer and other Barn events, and the donations made to the Harington Scheme and the Hornsey Food Bank.

This year the site is celebrating its centenary year and a centenary calendar and a booklet on the history of the site have been published. Still to come are a cookbook, a film about the site, and an autumn plant show.

In terms of maintenance it has been a busy year, with repairs to paths, sorting out drainage issues, arranging for overgrown and diseased trees to be pruned, etc. A particular welcome this year has been help organised by Garry Doyland from a small group of DoE students, who worked hard painting the floors in the Barn and Trading Shed, cleaning the buildings, and helping with pathway and track repairs.

The waiting list currently stands at 103, with approx. a three year wait for a plot. A question was asked as to whether we contact those on the list to check if they're still interested. Because of the administrative work involved we only check with those who are nearing the top of the list.

In her report on the trading shed Liz Denver highlighted the problems with getting delivery trucks down the Montenotte Rd track, and how she and Annie often have to ferry the deliveries in their cars from Montenotte Rd to the trading shed. Volunteers to help with this are always welcome, and one or two tenants offered to help.

Treasurer's report

Jo Sheehan summarised her financial report, and the healthy position of the Association, with a balance at the bank at 31st March of nearly £22K. In addition to funds raised from Barn events, the plant sale and winter warmer, Peter Till had made a generous donation of £6,000 from a sale of his artwork.

One individual suggested that in her view a priority for spending was the communal compost area. She suggested employing someone who could chip the woody material, and also hiring occasional skips for plot holders to bring their waste. The communal compost area was discussed as a separate item under future plans.

There were two questions regarding setting spending priorities and whether tenants' views would be considered. Jo explained that prioritising work and activities including allocating funds was the function of the committee, having taking account of tenants' views expressed at this and other meetings and gatherings.

Plans for 2025/26

Developing the communal compost area:

Over the past year the communal compost area quickly became a victim of its own success. Tenants eagerly brought their green waste but we had not yet worked out a proper strategy for how to handle it. Garry Doyland organised maintenance working parties over the winter, and with the help of volunteers, including some hard-working DoE students, began clearing bins, etc. This spring the Compost Working group, led by Liz Denver and Nevil Yildiz have made further progress, and they announced the good news that the compost area is now working well and ready to re-open. Posters will be put up and circulated with a list of do's and don'ts so tenants are clear about how to use the area responsibly. Some good compost has already been produced. More volunteers will be needed on a regular basis to continue to develop and manage the site.

A request was made that the guidance of what can be brought to the compost area be as specific as possible – what size of woody stuff is acceptable, for example.

Sue Webster asked that it be minuted that she had spoken to the fire department who had indicated that in a hot dry summer a large pile of vegetation could be a fire hazard. Julie confirmed that the committee will take further advice on this.

Installing a toilet

A toilet on site has been raised previously at AGMs and is something the committee wants to prioritise this year. Ian Potts explained the range of options, from hiring a portaloos, or a simple composting toilet, to a high quality waterless and composting toilet, or a self-build using mains water. The costs could range from around £2K to £14K, each option having its pros and cons. Planning permission will be needed. A helpful suggestion was made about applying for Lottery funding, and some tenants volunteered to talk with Ian in more detail after the meeting. Sue Webster noted she would be happy to clean the toilet!

Elections for committee members

10 nominations had been received to stand as committee members: Liz Denver, Annie Griffiths, Juliet Mann, Ian Potts, Jill Russell, Shazia Sardar, Jo Sheehan, Trevor Wyatt, Nevil Yildiz, Stefanie Zonca. Gary Sycamore proposed and Eugene McConville seconded the election of all those nominated and this was approved.

The committee will co-opt two additional members (Garry Doyland and Julie Yogasundrum).

AOB

It was suggested that a sign be put near the entrance so that when the gates are open on a Sunday passers-by are clear that the Montenotte track is a no through road.

Another suggestion was that some funds be spent on developing a workshop programme, for example on composting, soil health etc. Julie encouraged all tenants to write in to info@ with any ideas or offers to help take ideas forward.

A question was raised as to whether there was any update on plans that had been mooted some time ago to make Montenotte Rd a school street zone. We will contact Haringey for an update.

Beth Brown asked that her dissatisfaction be minuted about Haringey's non-management of Japanese knotweed on the site. Haringey's inaction has been an ongoing saga going back years and is extremely frustrating for those tenants affected. The committee agreed to discuss and look at how we might as a site take this issue forward. Bruno pointed out that some years ago there had been JKW by the Montenotte Rd track which he had cleared and it has not returned.

Juliet asked that thanks to Charles Sweeney be minuted for managing the SHA website.