

Shepherds Hill Allotments Association
AGM
19th November 2019 at 7.00pm
Victoria Stakes

Present (as far as those who signed in): Charles Sweeney, Trevor Wyatt, Julie Yogasundram, Julia Grant, Jill Russell, Juliet Mann, Gary Sycamore, Jane Bywaters, Jacky Wedgwood, Geoff Finch, Jenny Owen, Jeff Jerome, Mary Bratley, Robert Simpson, Geoff Clark, Anil Yogasundram, Greg Hone, Liz Denver, David Phelps, Nick Finley, Liane Payne, Richard House, Elliot Hodges, Biba de Mattia + 1, Annie Griffiths

1. Apologies

GINNY LUDLOW; PAULINE STOCKMANS, JANE SHALLICE, PETER TILL, SUSIE HEAP, ANDY WRIGHT, FRAN BLACKBURN.

2. Minutes of 2018 AGM

No corrections. The minutes were approved.

Matters arising: Ian Potts undertook an extensive survey of the site perimeter to identify vulnerable points for security of the site. As a result a new high fence and gate has been erected at the Queens Wood end, which has improved security there. Work on other areas identified as vulnerable is ongoing by regular maintenance working parties.

The committee raised the issue of treating knotweed with the Council but no action to date.

3. Annual report

Julie highlighted key points from the report.

Members thanked Julia Grant and Lynn Malloy for all their hard work in looking after the Trading Shed for many years and making it so successful. Liz Denver is taking over as the Trading Manager (responsible for stock etc.) and Annie Griffiths as the Trading Shed Manager (responsible for volunteers and shed operation). There will be a booklet in the shed for members to add any comments and suggestions they may have. Liz asked for volunteers for delivery days (next one will be in February now – details in a future newsletter).

It was agreed to keep the annual subscription for trading shed membership at £2.00/year.

A member raised the issue of wasted produce on the site – this is particularly apparent with fruit trees, but other produce too. Could it be used – either shared on the site, or made available to e.g. local soup kitchens? It was suggested that we could buy an apple press and have an Apple Day when people could bring surplus or unwanted apples for juicing. Gary Sycamore reminded everyone that during the summer months he is always happy to take produce for his stall at the Farmers Market, which raises money for the Harington Scheme.

Another member made a suggestion for a mentoring scheme on the site, so that horticultural knowledge could be shared between those with experience and expertise and

newcomers/those wishing to learn more. This was agreed to be a good idea. It was also noted that once the new social shed is up and running there will be more opportunities for this sort of knowledge sharing.

4. Treasurer's report

Nick Finley presented a summary of the Association's finances, which are in a healthy state. The annual plant sale and the trading shed continue to make significant contributions.

A member asked if money might be spent on having an occasional skip on site. Haringey used to provide this but it is now our responsibility and can be costly if it stays on site for a length of time. There has been a rubbish amnesty in the past where tenants could leave rubbish and we arranged for its removal, but this was also problematic because of the amount of broken glass and unsuitable material that was left. It was agreed that managing the removal of rubbish from the site is something that needs further consideration.

5. Plans for coming year

This item focused on the plans for the new social space on Plot 15. Ian Potts gave an update and explained how his thinking and research has progressed, taking into account of how estimates of costs have increased. The plan now is to try and do much more of the work ourselves (see item 5 paper for detail). Ian is happy to take the lead on this, and has an architect and structural engineer on board to provide support, but he will need volunteers to help. The plan is to draw up a rota of volunteers from March onwards.

The proposal is for the shed to be built with timber frame walls and then corrugated sheet cladding. Ian has looked into getting mains electricity onto the site but this would be very expensive so current thinking is to have solar panels and use the site generator as needed.

The issue of access was raised. The intention, as set out in our application to the Lottery Fund, is for the social space to be an inclusive one, both for current members and past members who may no longer have a plot but still want to be involved in site life, and to open up new opportunities for tenants and the wider community to gather.

As the plans progress it is hoped that as many people as possible get involved in helping this exciting project happen.

6. Amended constitution

The proposed changes were unanimously passed.

7. Election of members of the committee

Seven nominations were received, all from existing committee members, and the meeting agreed the re-election of these members.

8. AOB

Some wood on top of the storage shed next to the trading shed will be cleared as part of the clearance of Plot 15.