

Camberwell and District Allotment Society, Gunsite Section
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held in the Ismay Room, Scout Centre, Grange Lane

On 11th December 2022 at 10.00 am

- 1. Apologies for absence:**, Liz Brunton, Mike Gavin, Phil Heeps, Jane McLaughlin, Marc Meryon, Bob Reeves, Ann Revel, Christopher Thomson, Clare Thomson, Crispin Tuckley, Jane Tuckley,, Amorel Weston, David Wirth, David Whiting

There were 29 attendees: Jennie Avent, Jane Beales, Linda Craig (Secretary), Peter Currey, David Gopsill, Wanda Gorecki, Gavin Hamilton, Alex Hamilton, Anthony Heal, Kathy Heeps (Treasurer), Carrol Henry, Chris Hyde, Maggie Jarman (Chair), Julian Linfoot, Marjorie Londt, Lucy Lloyd-Davies, William Marshall, Annie McGeogh, Lynn Medcalf, Jennifer Milner, Philip Milner, Lorna Mills, Eleanor Mitchener, Judith Patrick (Vice Chair), Mike Patrick, Tony Roberston Jones, Jane Taylor (Site Officer), Nellie Tee, Bill Wood.

- 2. Approval of Minutes of AGM 2021 –**

These were approved unanimously.

- 3. Matters arising:**

None on this occasion.

- 4. Chair's Report**

Maggie Jarman (Chair) highlighted thanks to all the many volunteers who contribute to the running of the site over the year, especially the shop folk and the other officers.

Maggie also spoke of the move of Camberwell and District Allotment Society (CDAS) to become a cooperative, and the large amount of work this is involving in drafting the new Heads of Terms and model rules, especially by Kathy Heeps from Gunsite and Martin Beard from Grange. There was a question about whether members of the committee would have higher degrees of liability (as they make the decisions) if something went wrong. It was confirmed that the personal liability of plot holders/members will be limited to the shareholding – likely £1.00.

It is noted that CDAS negotiate the insurance arrangements, through Chris Knott Insurance. the ethical insurance brokers with whom National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) has an arrangement and which gives member allotment sites a discount. The current insurance arrangements include the requirement for pond covering.

CDAS has decided to stick with the current arrangements for the time being given the other negotiations going on and the length of time negotiation with insurers takes. The insurance will be renegotiated over the next year. Advice from knowledgeable plot holders is welcome.

Bob Reeves sent a message of thanks to all the contributors to the box for the Foodbank.

The summer social was very successful, especially thanks to the contribution of the musicians: The Round the Kitchen Table Band, Midfield (with John Seargeant), and Armored Weston, and the poet, Stephen Micallef.

5. Treasurer's Report

Kathy Heeps (Treasurer) added to her report by saying that rental increases are likely after the negotiations with the Dulwich Estate are concluded. There are additional costs for trees and the lane maintenance. Kathy Heeps reported that it is not known how much was spent on water this year, as Gunsite has not yet been billed for 2022. The meter leaked for most of the summer, and it is not known how much the site will be charged for this.

6. Site Officers' Report

Jane Taylor updated the site officers' report. There were two appeals, one of which was successful; the other went to the CDAS appeal process, however, the plot holder did not attend the appeal. The appeal was heard anyway and not upheld – the plot holder has been removed from the site. The future appeal process will be clearly stated in the new cooperative set up.

7. Shop Report

It was noted that £245 has been raised for Project Well through the Sunday refreshments. All plot holders are encouraged to use the shop as much as possible as the profits go to subsidise the rents – this should be made more widely publicised via a notice or email, for example. Over the last two years, the shop has raised over £3,000 which helps to subsidise the rent. The shop was asked to stock green manure seeds.

8. Amendment to the Bee Policy

Bee Keepers requested this be postponed until there has been time for more research and for full information to be sent to everyone. Relevant information will be collated and supplied via the email list and the website. The meeting was reminded that ploholders could all do more to support pollinators of all types, by planting bee-friendly plants such as lovage, marjoram and lavender.

It was agreed that there should be an extraordinary general meeting before Easter where everyone can have their say, having all had the same information, and a final

decision made. Any change in policy would not be in enacted in the next growing year and any reduction would be gradual.

9. Health and Safety Update

Mike Patrick presented his update on Health and Safety issues which have arisen since the risk assessment was produced in October 2021. Our document has been adopted by our sister sites as a template. There is now a map of all the ponds and water tanks on the noticeboard, and the mesh covers installed on water tanks. The revised Health and Safety document and other relevant documents will be put in one place on the website. The committee will be looking at procedures around the hiring of the trimmers. It was suggested there should be a hazard sign for the petrol store.

It was suggested that nematodes could be used on slugs. Envii is also useful against slugs and is a plant food.

10. Election of committee 2022-2023

The currently serving committee members¹ were elected for 2023 unanimously.

11. Any Other Business

None on this occasion.

12. Date of next AGM

19th November at 10.00 (Scout Hut)

¹ Liz Brunton (Site Officer), Linda Craig (Secretary), Gavin Hamilton, Kathy Heeps (Treasurer), Carrol Henry, John Hodges, Maggie Jarman (Chair), Philip Milner, Lorna Mills, William Marshall, Judith Patrick (Vice Chair and Site Officer), Jane Taylor (Site Officer)