

BUSHY PARK ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Meeting: -	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	
Date & Time: -	11 th October 2014 – 11:00 AM	
Location	The Shop, Bushy Park Allotments	
Minutes prepared by: -	Robin Hewitt (Secretary)	
Present: -	Phil Iddison (Chairman), Jenny Bevan (Treasurer), committee members and ploholders (34 total)	
Apologies: -	Chris Pickard, Shelagh Secola, John Whitby, Kathy Beckerleg	
Circulation: -	Committee members, notice boards, Pete Lewis	
Item	Minute	Action by
1	<p>AGM of 12th October 2013</p> <p>The minutes were agreed. Proposed by Elaine Smyth and seconded by Brian Basdell.</p>	
2	<p>Chairman's report</p> <p>The Chairman referred to his written report available to all ploholders, along with the latest newsletter. He reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was taking time to organise the shop (see below); • There was to be a Volunteer Weekend on November 8th/9th and notices would be placed on the boards; and • Thefts were still occurring – please report these to the Council. <p>The Borough of Richmond Allotment Group (BRAG) has had a number of meetings. BRAG represents the most active dozen sites and around 75% of plots in the Borough to deal jointly with the Council. BRAG has been advised that the rent rise this year will be 5.2% and the allotment service will then be self-financing. Invoices will be issued shortly. In order for the Council to recognise BRAG it needs to be a properly constituted body and to this end an AGM will be held at York House at 7pm on 25th November to which all ploholders are invited. Once this is done BRAG can be involved in the development of the next allotment strategy.</p> <p>The Chairman asked the meeting if the committee were doing the right thing and all that was expected. Any feedback in this respect would be welcome.</p>	
3	<p>Treasurer's report</p> <p>The Treasurer referred to the published accounts on the notice boards. The main account shows a balance of £1399. She reported that the income was the result of the open days and filming on site. We had made donations to Park Stables, who supply our manure, and to the Farm Terrace Allotment Campaign, who, in something of a test case, are trying to prevent their site being sold off for housing.</p>	
4	<p>Election of the committee</p> <p>The Chairman reported that all committee members had volunteered to stand for another year and he proposed they be re-elected. He asked for further volunteers, particularly from newcomers, and Stephanie Bateman and Joseph Ambaye agreed to join. The re-election of the Committee and its new members was proposed by Alison Neufeld, seconded by Graham Wells and</p>	

	agreed by the meeting.	
5	<p>The Shop Guiseppe de Vai has been running the shop single handed. The Chairman suggested that in future we could operate some form of rota system and he was looking for volunteers, to which three hands were raised. It was agreed the committee would discuss how the shop would operate in the future. The Chairman asked how much use was made of the shop and half those present indicated they had used it so support was significant.</p>	
6	<p>Volunteer Days There was a good show of hands for volunteers for the Volunteer Days. The Chairman suggested the oven could be fired and some food provided for volunteers.</p>	
7	<p>Any other business The following points were raised:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Chairman said he was talking to the Council about new deliveries of woodchip. It was noted that the areas are becoming dumping grounds for all sorts of rubbish. 2) The Chairman reported that he was having a meeting with David Allister next Thursday to mend fences with the Council. 3) The Portaloo was reported to be in a bad state. The Chairman stated that it was the responsibility of users to clear up after themselves. If not, we could get rid of it as we had with the rubbish bins and ploholders could use the toilets at Hampton Pool. The Council would certainly not pay for new toilets on site. A composting toilet was suggested; the Royal Paddocks has one and this will be investigated further. 4) It was suggested that we approach Adrian Hall for vouchers rather than Squires as they may sponsor them. 5) It was noted that the rabbit population was down but the rat and mice population was up. The Chairman will contact the Council for pest control. 6) The Chairman confirmed that neglected plots were identified in annual inspections. Currently we have 22 plots vacant and 7 or 8 have received termination notices from the Council. Regarding the plot that frequently floods, this could be converted to a Community Area for the south end of the site if money were available. 	
8	<p>The meeting closed at 11.35 with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and this was followed by the competition awards, a seed swop and barbecue for the tenants. The barbecue was funded from the shop profits. The competition awards included Community Awards for Guiseppe and Henry.</p>	