

BUSHY PARK ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Meeting: -	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	
Date & Time: -	Saturday 9th October 2021 11 a.m.	
Location	The Shop, Bushy Park Allotments	
Minutes prepared by: -	Robin Hewitt	
Present: -	Committee members and plotholders (32 in total)	
Apologies: -	David Wright, Cleve West, Pina Lavelli, Chris Pickard.	
Circulation: -	Committee members, notice boards, email distribution, website, LBRUT Allotments Officer	
Item	Minute	Action
1	<p>Secretary's Report</p> <p>Robin Hewitt presented his report for the year which he was making in the absence of any Chair, a role which had been vacant since the resignation of Joe Ambaye, who was thanked for his work as Chair in 2019-20.</p> <p>The Council's Allotments Officer, Pete Lewis, had just retired and the Council is currently recruiting a replacement who will be full time and dealing with administration as well as inspections and practical issues.</p> <p>Plotholders raised various matters arising from the report:</p> <p>Neglected plots – many plotholders expressed concerns about the number of neglected plots. Overgrown plots affect all neighbouring plots and are a wasted resource when so many people are on the waiting list. Many plotholders said that they tried to keep neighbouring overgrown plots under control, but expressed concerns about lack of suitable tools e.g. heavy duty strimmers to cut back long grass and Lyme Disease which can be contracted from long grass – ticks are very widespread on the site during the spring and summer. The Committee does not consider it is practical for the site to have a separate set of tools such as strimmers and power tools as it has insufficient members to maintain these and they are easily broken.</p> <p>The Committee was asked to urge the Council to tackle the problem of neglected plots by much faster evictions and a concerted effort to re-let all vacant plots. A list of plots that are known to be vacant will be put on the website.</p> <p>Woody Waste – it was explained that a rota of volunteers was needed to open the woody waste area to ensure that other rubbish was not dumped in it. A sign-up sheet for volunteers was available at the meeting. Some plotholders expressed the belief that using an incinerator was still allowed within the Council rules and was widespread practice on other sites in the Borough.</p>	C

	<p>All plotholders willing to volunteer to sign up on the sheet or email secretary@bushyparkallotments.org.uk</p> <p>Committee to double check whether the use of incinerators is permitted.</p> <p>Manure and woodchip – Park Lane Stables has moved to Petersham and intend to make regular deliveries once their trailer is repaired. Woodchip deliveries are rather infrequent, although there is always less over the summer. The Committee is to contact stables, including those in Hampton/Hanworth, and woodchip suppliers to try to secure more deliveries.[Post-meeting note: Park Lane Stables have now secured the site in Teddington and will be moving back at some point.]</p> <p>The Track – the state of the track is still a concern for some plotholders. It was explained that estimates for resurfacing it had been obtained and it would be prohibitively expensive for either the Site committee or the Council. There was also a concern that a better surface could lead to speeding. Therefore there was little that could be done other than filling in holes now and then.</p> <p>Volunteers – there are not enough plotholders volunteering to help with tasks around the site including showing prospective plotholders around, supporting new plotholders, maintenance, clearing flytipping, helping at open days and tackling overgrown plots so these tasks are falling on a very few people. All volunteer help is welcome – please email secretary@bushyparkallotments.org.uk if you can help.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>C</p> <p>C</p> <p>All</p>
2	<p>Treasurer's report</p> <p>The Treasurer's Report was circulated. There is a balance of £1705.74 in the bank account (there has to be a minimum reserve of £1000 at all times under the constitution). There has been little expenditure this year. The accounts were agreed.</p>	
3	<p>Election of the committee</p> <p>The Secretary said that the existing Committee would be willing to stand again and this was voted unanimously. Henry Evans objected that properly all the committee should resign and be elected individually. He proposed that Guiseppe de Vai be elected as Chairman and this was seconded by Ted Leppard. GdeV agreed to act as Chair and then left the meeting.</p> <p>Following this Chris Aston, Vicky Phillips and Gill Wilkinson resigned from the committee and Julie Batten volunteered to act as the new Treasurer. In the absence of a formal vote, it is considered the committee now comprises GdeV (Chair), Robin Hewitt (Secretary), Julie Batten (Treasurer), David Wright, Brian Basdell, John Carrig and Pedro Vicente. The Committee is still very under strength with only 7 members (the Constitution provides for 8-12 and 12 is desirable). Several of the ten areas of the site have no plotholders representing them so work on identifying neglected plots is much slower. Anyone wishing to join is asked to email Secretary@bushyparkallotments.org.uk</p> <p>It was suggested that a fuller job description for each post be put into the newsletter, on the noticeboards and on the website so all plotholders know what is involved.</p> <p>It was also suggested that all minutes including those of the AGM be put on the noticeboards.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>PI/RH</p> <p>RH</p>
4	<p>Any other business</p> <p>None</p>	