

## Golf Course Allotments Association

### DRAFT Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 29 April 2019

Chaired by Andrew Lewis

Minutes by Elin Murphy

**Apologies:** Tricia Kelly, Alison Joseph, Tullio Moglia, Ming Tang-Evans

Andrew welcomed all who were present; 24 members attended.

#### 1. Minutes of the meeting of the 2018 AGM:

The minutes were approved, with no corrections or matters arising.

#### 2. Reports

##### 2.1 Chairman's Report – Andrew Lewis:

Several things have happened since the last AGM. The community hut has been emptied of the excess stuff that had been stored in it, and it was repainted in time for the show last September. However, painting things on the site is like painting the Forth Bridge because now the shop needs work. We are hoping to do this sometime soon, and we want as many volunteers as possible.

With the hut cleared, the café goes from strength to strength: it has been a success financially and fills to capacity every month. Kudos to Liz Love for all the work she does, and thanks to all the volunteers who help out with serving and cleaning up.

We started our new-format emails to members this year, and they are GDPR-compliant (people can unsubscribe if they want to). It seems to be working well.

The toilet has been a constant battle. Karen Sellars has been dealing with issues and workmen. The original installers returned, climbed into the tank, and re-sealed it. Hopefully it is functioning properly now. Emptying it (about twice a year) will incur a cost of about £100 annually.

Regarding the break-in last November, although only £10 was stolen, the damage and costs associated with security amounted to about £800. Unfortunately, the police can do nothing about it, and neither can we. Security lights have been installed and are working well.

We need to provide more support to the shop – please go see what is on offer and make purchases.

##### 2.2 Secretary – Tullio Moglia (report read by the Chairman):

Apologies from Tullio for his inability to be present due to work commitments. He extends thanks to the committee for all their hard work during the previous year, which has proven our site is a successful place. Special thanks to Andrew, who has been Tullio's cover during the year and has helped in dealing with issues arising.

*Waiting list:* At present we have 55 applications; of those only about 20 or so are not following the correct procedure. We currently have two vacant plots, or possibly three; all are 5 poles. This figure has to be confirmed with the new Allotments Officer. Also during the past year, 20 applicants were removed from the waiting list for failing to follow the right procedure.

Shortly we will have our first site inspection with the new Allotments Officer. Tullio and Andrew carried out a pre-inspection and noticed that quite a few plots could receive non-compliance notices. This would range from non-cultivation to the condition of the paths or over-hanging trees. It has also been noticed that plot numbers have become difficult to see or are non-existent. These have to be easily visible as it makes sure that notices will go to the correct tenants.

(In response to a query, Andrew noted that anybody receiving a non-compliance notice has 30 days to bring the plot up to standard. Three strikes are allowed, but that's it.) [Correction: Haringey

Council have clarified that '2 strikes within 12 months; then termination (with notice)' is a more correct way of describing the process.]

### 2.3 Treasurer – Simon Padfield:

The Treasurer's reports were distributed to attendees, discussed, and adopted.

*Discussion:* The question was raised of when subscriptions come up for renewal (the start of every financial year, therefore beginning of April), how members are reminded to pay (generally by email), and how they make their payment (by BACS or by giving their £5 to Sean in the Trading Shed). Jenny Kruss pointed out that it is important to let members know when the financial year is so they don't pay twice in one year. Simon replied that he keeps records of when people pay their subs and would credit any duplicate payment to the next year.

Clare Winstanley questioned why such a low amount has been spent on site maintenance when there are so many things that need to be done. Andrew replied that the drainage issue on the site has become our number one priority. The drainage works will begin in May. Also, fixing some of the roads (at a later date) is a desire. These tasks are very expensive, so the bulk of the site maintenance money was being saved for this. If GCAA members have other issues which they think take higher priority, please say so. Shane Coyle pointed out that the water situation is deteriorating. Andrew responded that he has taken it up with Haringey, who are apparently responsible for the water infrastructure below ground, but they have been slow to take action and are unlikely to give GCA priority in addressing such an issue.

Replying to a query about the wood chippings bins, Andrew said it would be taken care of as soon as a work party could be put together. With regard to the chippings pile at the end of the road, Jenny Kruss suggested putting a rope around the designated space for it so that the chippings don't spread so much and take up valuable parking space.

The suggestion was mooted that we should be addressing small issues on the site as well as the large ones. Andrew replied that the committee will consider all ideas and requested that all small tasks that need doing should be emailed to the committee. Andrew then said there is already plan for what big tasks are to be done in the future.

**Karen Sellars proposed the accounts and Treasurer's report be adopted; seconded by Steve Davies.**

### 2.4 Trading Shed – Sean Lambert:

Sean requested that people keep using the trading shed – there are bargains to be had!

### 2.5 Young Gardeners Club – Clare Winstanley:

Clare read her report, which is attached to these minutes.

### 2.6 Show – Elin Murphy:

Elin has taken over from Karen as Show Secretary this year, but Karen is continuing to provide support and advice. A new system is being implemented so that jobs are better distributed among volunteers rather than all falling on a few people. However, volunteers are desperately needed! We especially need a Stalls Coordinator and a Games Coordinator. Another appeal will be sent to the membership, and there will be a sign-up sheet for jobs that people can do on the day. We also need a judge for the domestic section. The Allotment Show will take place on Sunday, September 1, and the schedule can be found on the website.

## 3. Elections:

*Committee:* Steve Davies, Mick Gerrie, Alison Joseph, Tricia Kelly, John Newman, Linda Soyka [?], and Ming Tang-Evans. **Committee election proposed by Jef Smith, seconded by Karen Sellars**

*Site Secretary:* Tullio Moglio

*Chairman:* Andrew Lewis

*Treasurer:* Simon Padfield

*Trading Shed Manager:* Sean Lambert

*Minutes Secretary:* Elin Murphy

**Proposed:** Bernita Bull

**Proposed:** Barbara Scerri

**Proposed:** Sean Lambert

**Proposed:** Karen Sellars

**Proposed:** Bernita Bull

**Seconded:** Jenny Kruss

**Seconded:** Margo Duncan

**Seconded:** Ann Hunt

**Seconded:** Steve Davies

**Seconded:** Jef Smith

#### 4. Appointment of Auditor:

Andrew noted that although the GCAA had previously recruited two auditors from among the membership, the rules now needed to be changed so that we have just one independent auditor who is not a GCAA member. A search was therefore conducted, and an auditor was found who agreed to take on the job at no charge.

**Robin Hodgkinson** was proposed by Andrew Lewis, and then was approved by members at the AGM.

#### 5. Honoraria:

Before voting on the honoraria to be awarded, discussion took place regarding the propriety of giving honoraria to Tullio and Sean. Clare Winstanley pointed out that the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) frown on the practice as it can cause tax and benefits issues. The NCVO says organisations need to find other means of rewarding volunteers who do things that are above and beyond what is expected of them. The question was raised as to whether we should discontinue conferring honoraria. Andrew pointed out that the honoraria are paid in arrears, and it would be unfair not to bestow the payments now, but there is no guarantee that individuals should get one. It was agreed that the committee should look into the matter and bring a recommendation to the next AGM.

**Karen Sellars proposed that Tullio Moglia and Sean Lambert each be paid a £500 honorarium and that the committee get advice on how to handle honoraria in the future. David Davies seconded, and the motion passed.**

#### 6. Any Other Business:

Honorarium for Andrew Lewis: Andrew left the meeting so discussion could take place regarding Karen Sellars's proposal that he be awarded an honorarium of £500 in recognition of all his hard work. Karen pointed out that Andrew has often spent his own money to enable tasks that needed to be done on the allotment, and she felt it was worth paying him a small sum in order to keep him. This extended the discussion of honoraria, with one member expressing the feeling that it was inappropriate to reward people financially. Simon finally called for a vote. Nineteen people voted yes, with two abstentions, so the motion was carried.

*Honorarium for Andrew Lewis:* **Proposed by Karen Sellars; seconded by Barbara Scerri; approved.**

Andrew returned to the meeting

**RULE CHANGE:** It had been noted during the meeting that a minor rule change would have to take place. It was proposed by Andrew Lewis to change Rule 6.3 to read: "*One Auditor, who must not be an Officer, Committee member, or plot holder should be elected at the Annual General Meeting.*"

**This was approved unanimously.**

Jenny Kruss asked about the gates being locked at night in the belief this was still taking place at 5.30 pm. Andrew replied that there is no longer a night lock for the gate, which had been a precautionary measure after the burglary in November, so the regular locks are now on the gate, allowing members to leave the site when they like.

The AGM having ended, some members stayed on afterwards for coffee and tea. Thanks to the member who brought the scones!