

Hackney Allotment Society

Minutes of AGM held on Wednesday 5 October 2016 at

St Mary's Church Rooms, Stoke Newington, N16.

Present:

Nancy Korman (Secretary , but acted as Chair in Penny's absence)
Hugh Naylor (Treasurer)

The following site representatives: Susan Sharples (Aden Terrace), Henrietta Soames (St Kildas), Annie Wilson (Springdale Road), MJ and Helene Gullaksen (Leaside, Subs and minute taker) Sue (other minute taker) and approximately 35 members.

Apologies:

Received from Penny Miller (Chair) , Ruth Gladwin (Vice Chair) Sue Carlin, Sue Fairbrother, Philip Turner, Rowena Altheer, Catherine Ball.

- **Minutes of the 2015 AGM**

Members were asked if there were any questions they would like raised.

As there were none the Minutes were accepted.

- **Chairman's Report**

During the past year, 10 plots were re-let year. Nancy also informed HAS that a record number of dirty plot letters and warnings were issued with a reminder that The Committee were committed to making sure that all plots were fully utilized with, a use it, or lose it policy in place.

Q- Price Increase?

The plot rent will go up again by £5 next year to match expenditure. Hugh Naylor would then review the accounts with a view to a further increase next year dependant on a Forecast of Income and expenditure.

Q-When will the list re-open ?

Hugh - Felt it wasn't right to reopen the list and take subs for many years without much hope of receiving a plot . He felt the list has many permutations which complicated the estimated time a member may hope to receive a plot . IE.. Which site they would prefer to join , if they themselves were able to accept a plot due to changes in their own circumstances etc

Nancy - There are at present 33 people on the waiting list .

Sarah asked when the list would be open again and noted that the Committee had ignored the vote of the 2014 AGM to re-open the waitinglist. She suggested it could be publicized in Hackney Today . It was agreed there should be further discussion at committee level on how to make the list accessible to the wider public without been overwhelmed by demand. Marie suggested that the list could be capped at 100 - to be discussed . Sarah asked if there could be a vote to reopen the waiting list (shut for the past 5 years)

A vote was taken with the majority voting roughly two thirds not reopen the list.

Nancy agreed we would take advice from the council how to make applications more fair once the list was reopened.

The committee's search for new plots has remained fruitless mostly due to a change of policy by the council that, when spaces have become available they prefer community based organizations to individual plot owners to take them over.

Nancy's request for help with the news letter has yet again not been responded to so she will carry on.

- **Treasurer's Report**

Hugh Naylor presented the audited accounts to the meeting.
Expenditure this year £ 3,400 (mostly tree work) . Income this year £3,300 .

Hugh noted the accounts are just about breaking even, there have been no new expenditure on new plots. we have around £8,500 in cash . Net £6,700 available for emergencies, pruning is cyclical so we need to keep some cash in reserve for such necessities.

There were no questions about the accounts from the floor.
The accounts were then accepted by the meeting.

- **Election of Officers**

There was no election for the posts of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, as the number of people willing to be considered was the same as the number of posts available. The incumbents will carry on.

- **Other Questions and Items raised by members**

- A very interesting talk was provided by, Margaret Willes from her book titled - The gardens of the British working class . Our thanks go to her

- **Other Business**

The gate at Aden Terrace after a six month battle with Hackney council has been replaced .

A brick wall at Springdale Road needs repairing and the ongoing discussions as to whom will pay with Hackney Council continue.

Weeds at SpringHill are spilling on from Hackney council property and so on going discussions are also taking place.

Joss asked who the trustees are .

Sarah asked about availability of wood chippings as was directed to Tree Amigos

Nancy was asked about photos of site winners and a small paragraph written by the winners on the website. Open days for sites also to be considered . Hugh suggested to staggering visits to three sites a year. To be discussed further.

Sue suggesting newcomers are offered a list of plants that grow at that particular site. Nancy replied that we could send a document around to what else needs to be added for newcomers.

Last Year 10 people came off the Waiting list , this year four people are already off the list

18 neglected letters went out, with HAS' much stricter policy coming into effect, weedy, semi unused plots are not acceptable. The next site inspections will be March

- **Best Plot Awards**

SpringLane	Brighid Lowe
Leaside	best newcomer Wayne Minter best plot Hilary Kerr and Jack Eldon
Spring Hill	best newcomers: Michelle Tate, Victoria Moseley and Debbie Allright Best utilized: Oisin Hanrahan
Aden Terrace	Best Plot: Betty and Jeff Manning, Angela Wadlington Most improved - Rae Harrison
Small Sites:	Best Plot: Caroline Gilchrist and Robb (Church Walk) Most Improved: Kate Lawson (St Kildas)

The meeting ended at 9.30pm.