

## Hackney Allotment Society

Minutes of AGM held on Wednesday 3 October 2018 at

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

**Present:** Nancy Korman – Secretary (Chair)  
Hugh Naylor - Treasurer

### **The following site representatives:**

Jon Fuller, Beth Webber and Philip Pearson (Spring Hill)  
MJ and Helene Gulleksen (Leaside)  
Julia Rockcliffe (Overbury)  
Susan Sharples (Aden Terrace), Maggie Wilkinson (Church Walk)  
Henrietta Soames (St Kildas)  
Helen Bishop and Elsa Hamaz (Spring Lane)

**Apologies:** Penny Millar - Chair, Ruth Gladwin – Vice Chair, Annie Wilson (Springdale Road) Philip Turner (Queensbridge Road) and 20 members.

### **1. Minutes of the 2017 AGM**

These were agreed as a record of the 2017 AGM.

### **2. Report from the Chair**

- Waiting list reopened for 2 weeks in March for first time in 15 years. Received 140 applications. The HAS made 100 random selections to become members of the waiting list. 6 have already been allocated plots. Total membership for HAS is 235.
- Open days were run for the first time in June/July which was enjoyable and successful. The following sites participated – Aden Terrace, Church Walk, Leaside and Overbury Street. There is an intention to continue these next year.
- 6 neglected plot letters this year. If a plot holder receives neglected plot letters for 3 consecutive years they will receive a notice to quit.
- Repairs were undertaken to several sites – church walk wall (the funding for this repair has been in principle been agreed by the owner of an adjoining property subject to a satisfactory work plan), repair to Springdale will hopefully be paid for by Hackney Council.
- Pump at Spring Lane hopefully to be replaced.
- 11 wooden frame boxes were donated from McApline Construction to the HAS which have been distributed to 11 members.
- Waiting list member enquired whether they would be updated re-place on the waiting list. Nancy explained that members could contact her and request this info.
- 1 new plot created at Overbury Street thanks to Julia, and 1 lost at St Kildas.
- 7 of our 9 sites are recognised as official green spaces so the Council can't build on them (St Kildas and Queensbridge Road are not)

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

- Financial position is solvent.
- Income up by £600 due to new members' membership fees.
- Costs were increased due to increased number of repairs eg pollarding.
- Currently running at a profit – with a healthy cash balance.
- The contingency is held for opportunities such as creating new plots and protection against sudden rent or water raises For example we pay £560 per year for rent to Hackney Council (but this is not protected).
- A member enquired whether we could use the contingency for acquiring new land – HN explained that it was unrealistic in London.

### **4. Election of Officers**

- Officers were duly elected.
- Thanks to the following site representatives who are retiring this year.
  - Beth Webber and Philip Pearson from Spring Hill
  - Helene Gulkensen from Leaside
- The Society thanked all the site representatives for their hard work.

### **7. Best Plot Awards**

The following people won awards for their plots:

Aden Terrace:

Best Plot – Chris Coe

Church Walk:

Best plot – Deborah Jeffries

Most Improved – John Clarke

Spring Hill:

Best Plot – Marlis Scholtz and Annie Moreton

Best Newcomer – Andrea Laux

Spring Lane:

Best Plot – Kelly O'Neill

Overbury Street:

Best Plot – Chris Skinner

Best Newcomer – Ann Leatherley

## **8. Items raised by members**

- The Society thanked Nancy Korman for all her hard work running the meetings and HAS.
- Sue thanked her site for supporting Fran Walker during her illness and her daughter for adapting the plot for disabled access. Fran sadly died at the end of August.
- Newsletter – thanks to Annie Wilson for content and Amanda Scope for the layout.
- Organic Garden catalogue – order through the group scheme to get discount by end of November to Sarah Kissack. We need an order of at least £200 to get a 30% discount.
- Thanks to Sarah for organising the group discount.

A seed swap and jar swap was run, and Jon gave a presentation on compost (notes to be on the website).

The meeting closed exactly on time at 9.00pm