

AGM 2020 - Election of officers

All elected uncontested for another term.

Penny Miller - Chair, Ruth Gladwin - Vice Chair, Hugh Naylor - Treasurer

Nancy Korman - Secretary

The proposals

Proposal 1 - increase in late payment fee to £10.

PASSED - The vote was 33 in favour, 4 against.

This will now be implemented. The committee considered the outcome and that 4 members were against it. It was agreed that those who have not yet paid would be written to (this will be their fourth reminder) and given an amnesty of two weeks to pay up; only after that would the late payment fee be applied.

Proposal 2 - concession fees available to those on low income-related state benefits.

PASSED - The vote was 32 in favour, 4 against.

This is now apply to fees due for the next year, officially the 2022 AGM.

Proposal 3 - at least three-quarters of a plot must be under cultivation during the main summer months.

PASSED - The vote was 28 in favour, 7 against.

The committee discussed the result of the vote and some of the comments made about the proposal on returned voting slips. The committee has asked the Secretary to offer members some reassurance on how this might be implemented.

A few members expressed concern about the use of the term "cultivation" and that it might be employed in a restricting manner. The Society is looking to ensure that plots are being used. Crop failures, predators, wild life areas etc. are all accepted as signs of use. The Society also understands that an empty space may indicate that something has been taken out but the next thing to go in isn't yet ready - that also isn't a problem. The Society can tell the difference between a plot being used and one that has been significantly neglected. Looking across all the sites shows that people have different ways of approaching the use of their allotments, and that is fine. There is no wish to impose a single standard 'how-to' on members, only to ensure that we are not wasting this precious resource of land in Hackney. The site visits are made towards the end of June into the beginning of July, and if you are concerned about your plot, you can always discuss it with your site representative who will be on the visit.

Best Plot Awards

Aden Terrace - Sue Carling and John Hudson

Leaside - Best plot Amy Miller

Most Improved - Lorna Hayes

Spring Lane - joint best plot to Sally Weale and Henrike

Spring Hill - Best Plot - Sophie Mathias

Best Newcomer - Katharine Arnold

(Katharine sadly died towards the end of the summer. We will pass this award on to her brother.)

Small sites - Best Plot- John Clarke (Church Walk)

And two special awards. This year the newsletters have been really outstanding, and the committee would like to recognise the work done producing these by Annie Wilson and Amanda Scope. Amanda in particular has been doing the layout and design of the newsletter for years, and we are truly grateful to her for such a commitment.

