

D R A F T

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held virtually, on Monday 13 December 2021 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: John Cole (JC) (President), John Turner (JT) (Chairman), Louise Mallinson (LM) (Vice-Chairperson), Catherine Dunne (CD) Treasurer, Sue Wheatley (SW) (Secretary), Robin Weedon (RW) (Communications Officer), Dawn Tinsley (DT), Peter Linley (PL), Charlotte Martin (CM), Ian Helyar (IH), Richard Nottidge (RN), Sue Kean (SK), Karen Walters (KW), Andy Holt (AH), Elisabete Ferguson (EF), John Studzinski (JC), Keith Matthews (KM), Dona Leusen (DL), Christine Raper (CR), Ruth Jones (RJ).

1.WELCOME: Society Chairman, John Turner (JT), welcomed Members to the AGM. John Cole (JC) noted that the meeting was quorate as there were at least 20 attendees. He thanked Robin Weedon (RW) for sorting out the Zoom link. He complimented the Chair on his report. He also praised the team that had organised the show and in particular Dawn Tinsley (DT). He commented that he was very happy with the work carried out by the Committee over the year and that he felt that the Society was in safe hands. Attendees introduced themselves to each other.

2.ELECTION OF CHAIR: JT stood down as Chair. JC asked if there were any other nominations for Chair other than JT. As there were not, a vote was taken and JT was elected unanimously for another year. He then chaired the remainder of the meeting.

3.APOLOGIES: None received

4.MINUTES of 2020 AGM: Minutes of the previous AGM were agreed as a correct record.

5.MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising that would not be covered elsewhere in the Agenda.

6.CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (copy attached to minutes)

A report had previously been circulated with the Agenda. JT went through this report highlighting the achievements:

- It had, financially, been a better year than the previous year
- Unfortunately 2 Committee members (Eric Waterworth and Claire Waterworth, Treasurer) had stood down from the Committee due to illness; however 2 new members had been co-opted onto the Committee; Catherine Dunne (CD) and Sue Kean (SK)
- Solar panels and CCTV had been installed at both sites. Richard Nottidge (RN) was thanked for this
- The Walkers are Welcome Group had visited Charlestown and wanted to make it an annual event
- Beavers had visited for their gardening badge
- The show had been successful
- The Newsletter was an asset. (JT noted that the Town Council had been putting it onto their website and that this would be discussed at the January meeting)
- Thanks to RW the website had been redesigned
- The telephone box at The Junction PH had been refurbished thanks to RW and that work had started on the one at Station Road

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- Leaf collection was successful
- Regular deliveries of horse manure and chippings had been organised

JT also went through the following issues:

- Complaints had been received about cockerels which had been dealt with
- There had been a number of thefts. The police are aware. (this will be discussed further at the January meeting)
- Plots were in an improved condition
- The Gate at Charlestown had been a continual problem, with people leaving it open when asked to close it. (this will be reviewed in February).
- Covid had hampered the desire to organise garden visits and educational talks
- The allotments were being managed in a more environmentally friendly way with cardboard being used instead of old carpets.
- The use of water butts was being encouraged.

In response to the Chairs report, Members made the following suggestions and comments:

Dona Leusen (DL) – could reasonably priced water butts be stocked in the shop?

Andy Holt (AH) – should a reminder be sent round to advise plot holders not to keep valuable items on the site?

Members had experienced verbal abuse in relation to the locking of the Charlestown gate.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT: (copy attached to minutes)

A report had previously been circulated with the Agenda. JT advised that the report had been prepared by Sarah Oddy, an independent accountant. He highlighted that the financial situation was better than last year. The reserve remained the same at £8170. JT noted that this was in line with the advice of the Charity Commission (although it was noted that the Society is not a registered charity). JT explained that due to the illness of the Treasurer a number of other Officers had had to assist with financial matters through the year, and that to assist, the Committee had agreed to the engagement of a professional accountant.

DL asked for more detail on the seed order and running expenses. It was explained that seeds are ordered on behalf of members who then pay for them. Catherine Dunne advised that she could provide more detail on the running expenses if it would assist.

The report was voted upon and was accepted. JT will send it to the Town Council to be audited.

8. RULE CHANGES (See attached report)

JT explained that:

- Rule 3 had been amended to allow for pro rata rents to be charged for plots taken on mid -year and for Allotment Officers to have the discretion to reduce rents if the plots were in a bad state when taken on. It was highlighted that this had been the practice anyway.
- Rules 20 and 26 had been amended to make it clear that abusive behaviour would result in disciplinary action. There was a discussion about what was the definition of abuse and that disciplinary action should be taken for abuse directed at other members as well as Committee Members. (This to be considered at the January meeting).

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- Appendix 2 had been included so plot holders could provide size details of their proposed sheds, greenhouses and polytunnels.

A vote was taken and these rule changes were endorsed.

9.RENTS FOR 2022

A vote was taken and it was agreed unanimously not to increase rents.

10. MEMBERSHIP FEES

A vote was taken and it was agreed unanimously not to increase membership fees.

11. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

JT asked whether anyone else wanted to stand to be a member of the Committee.

John Studzinski ((JS) nominated himself. He was seconded by JC. A vote was taken and his election was unanimously agreed.

JT advised that the rest of the Committee were happy to continue in their current roles for another year. A vote was taken and this was agreed unanimously. The Committee members are:

John Turner, Chair
Louise Mallinson, Vice-Chair
Sue Wheatley, Secretary
Catherine Dunne, Treasurer
Robin Weedon, Publicity
Dawn Tinsley, Show Secretary
Peter Linley, Shop Manager
Charlotte Martin, Allotment Officer, Charlestown
Ian Helyar, Health and Safety Officer
Richard Nottidge, Membership Secretary
Mike Webster, Allotment Officer, Thompson Lane
Sue Kean
John Studzinski

JC advised that he was happy to remain as President. A vote was taken and it was agreed unanimously that he should continue as President for another year.

12. HONORARIA:

Christine Raper (CR) asked why not all the honoraria appeared to have been claimed. JT noted that this was down to the individual Officer. An additional honoraria was proposed by JT for the Newsletter Officer.

A vote was taken and it was agreed unanimously that these would be as follows –

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Chairperson - £150

Treasurer - £150

Secretary - £150

Communications Officer - £150

Newsletter Officer - £150

13. ANY QUESTIONS

CR queried whether any provision had been made for the health and welfare of the cats. Charlotte Martin (CM) advised that 2 of the cats were hers and that she had made provision. Cate Reed was responsible for one of the cats and that the other 2 belonged to Steve Kalaher and that she would check. She expressed concern that plot holders were overfeeding the cats. They are feral cats and need to be treated as such.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

JT advised the meeting that a grant had been provided by the Climate Committee of Bradford Council for 2 Invertors. He further noted that the money that had been saved by not having pie and peas would enable the purchase of a strimmer.

JC thanked everyone for attending the AGM which had covered a lot of ground. He also thanked everyone for their contribution over the year.

The meeting closed at 8:35