

RUSHDEN PERMANENT ALLOTMENT AND SMALL HOLDING SOCIETY LIMITED

Registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

Register no. 3126R

E-mail rushdenallotments@hotmail.co.uk

Minutes of the Annual General Held on Tuesday 18th February 2020 at the Masonic Hall

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:30pm

Members in attendance 41 members

1 Associate member

2 Visitors

Apologies:

None

1. Minutes of last Meeting

The minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 5th March 2019 have previously been displayed on the Field Notice Boards and the member's area of the allotment website members have been previously asked for any amendments required. The minutes were not read out. There was no comment from the floor. These minutes were asked to be passed as a true record.

Proposed Pam Clark

2nd Gloria Wright

The minutes were passed as agreed

2. New Members

Russell Jarvis informed the attending members that there were 27 new members. Russell Jarvis asked the members to vote the new members in to the society.

Proposed by Dave Flook

2nd Nick Spalding

3. Chairman's Report

- In addition to my report in the accounts I would like to add a couple of more items.

- Unfortunately the weather has been unkind to us and most members have been unable to make a start on their plots.

We have suffered severe flooding on the fields and have been forced to close most of the roads on Bedford Road as they have become inaccessible to vehicles. (One member has had to have their car recovered by the Society tractor just before Christmas).

A party of volunteer members have laid down some free road tarmac that was being removed from our neighbours in Kingsmead Park.

When the weather settles this is a project to be finished and the roads reopened. We may have to look at repairs to the roads and all our fields following the severe weather. We will probably have to purchase road chippings.

- The Society is planning to hold its annual Speaker Evening in June as part of the Town Councils "Celebrate Rushden".
- We have continued to support Rowan Gate School, a school that caters for children with various disabilities, some of our members are now helping at the school with a gardening club. One member has supplied us some unused tools that would not be suitable for the children but we are offering for sale to the members so that the proceeds can then be used for seeds, compost etc.

Sue Dawkins (one of our members who volunteers at the school), commented that the Societies support is very well received and is making a real difference to the children.

- After 6 years our Secretary, Dee Smith, has decided to take a well earned rest and has stood down from the role. Over her time as our Secretary, Dee has carried out her duties in a professional manor and I and the Committee would like to thank her and wish her well for the future.
- Angela Ballarano was introduced to the members as the new Secretary.
- Lastly, I would like to thank the Committee for their work they put into running the Society.

4. Treasurers Report

I would like to just give a brief overview of the financial structure for any new members or existing members who are interested.

The Society is a limited company and as such is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). We have to maintain books and records of financial transactions and submit these to an independent accountant/Auditor each year and produce audited accounts for submission to the FCA. Our accounting year is from 1st November to 31st October. Our current Auditors are Denton Tavera of Alfred Street Rushden.

The accounts you have been sent by email or post are those accounts, which will be submitted, once signed at this meeting. There is a slight change to the accounts you received in that our previous Secretary has resigned due to other commitments and the third signature has been removed for this year. The accounts still meet all statutory requirements and the new secretary will be added for next year's accounts. There are a few copies of the revised accounts available and can also be sent by email for anyone who would like a set.

Within the Accounts I would like to draw your attention to a few items for clarity.

Page 5 Fixed Assets: £15,180 is the cost of the new garage (less Planning and design) at Grafton Road. This replaces the old garage, which became a dangerous structure.

Page 5 Sundry Debtors: £79.00 is a prepayment against our insurance. The renewal is in December so we have already paid for next November, which falls in next financial year and so they "owe" us a month's insurance.

Page 5 Current Assets Investments: The Cash at Bank Deposit account is reduced compared to the previous year as these reserves were used to fund the various larger projects, which are not part of routine running costs.

Page 6 Field Maintenance – Larger Projects: £12,940 is the cost of Asbestos removal and additional fencing for Washbrook Road.

Any Questions are welcomed.

I have prepared a forecast of routine running costs for 2020 to help the assessment of rental costs for the current year. Copies are available. Note that these calculations **exclude** any large or extraordinary costs that may arise.

This has been discussed at Committee and the Committee recommendation is that the Rent remains at 2.50 per pole for the current year.

Any questions are welcomed.

There were no other questions and the accounts were approved.

Proposed by John Bowerman
2nd Pam Clark

A show of hands showed unanimous agreement

5. Annual Rent Review

- The Treasurer distributed the analysis for the proposed rent review which shows expenditure against poleage.
- Expenditure for major projects comes from the investment accounts.
- Profits from store sales were £1495 last year, noting that the stores have been recently restocked for next years sales.
- Estimated running costs for next year are £10800.
- Last year's running cost's estimate was £2.55 per pole, actual expenditure was £2.13 per pole. It is estimated that running cost for next year will be £2.46 per pole.
- The Treasurer proposed to keep the rent at £2.50 per pole.
- The rent will be collected via bank transfer or at the stores.

Proposed John Bowerman
2nd Russell Jarvis

A show of hands showed unanimous agreement.

• John Bowerman pointed out that the profits that are received from the Society stores is an excellent way to keep the rent costs down and encouraged everyone to support them.

• Russell Jarvis informed the members that the Grafton Road store is stocked with Mother Earth compost that was bought in before the supplier increased their price of it. If these can be quickly sold then we may be able to order in an additional supply at the lower price.

6. Election of Reporting Accountant

The Accounts for the year 2018/ 2019 were agreed. There were no objections to re-elect Denton Tavara as Reporting Accountant for the society.

Proposed John Bowerman
2nd Russell Jarvis

A show of hands showed unanimous agreement

7. Any Other Business

No other business was sent in.

9. Election of Committee members

Three Committee members were elected at the meeting:

John Bowerman - re-elected.	31 votes
Keith Jackson - re-elected	24 votes
Shane Webster - newly elected	30 votes

Our thanks go to Ray McDonnell who was unsuccessful this time with 19 votes.

10. Announcements

- Bob Cowper has decided to stand down from his position at the Grafton Road store after 6 years. He has put in a great deal of time and effort in setting up the store and suppliers. The store has benefitted all of the members with very reasonably priced products, the sales of which, in turn, increase the societies income. Russell Jarvis, on behalf of the Society, presented Bob with a silver tankard and a gift to say a very big thank you for all his work.

Peter Wright also thanked Bob and all the volunteers at the shop for their dedication and hard work.

- Seed potatoes -
orders will be ready to collect and the Grafton Road store will be open Thursday 27th February
8.30 - 10.30 am
Friday 28th February 17.30 - 19.00
Saturday 29th February 8.30 - 10.30 am

There are also spare nets for those who have not ordered.

It would be appreciated if they could be collected ASAP.

RJ thanked members for attending and closed the meeting.

Meeting Closed: 20:30

Signed_____

Counter signed_____

Date _____