

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 5th March 2019 at the Masonic Hall

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:30pm

Members in attendance 38 plot holders

1 Associate member

2 Visitors

Secretary

Apologies:

Alan Devonish Vanessa & Al Coxon Alison & Andy Allen Richard Batton

Graham Bufton Karen Goss Chris Tansley Sheila Davies

1. Minutes of last Meeting

The minute of the AGM held on 20th February 2018 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 Mick Spalding

2nd Pam Clarke

The minutes were passed as agreed

2. New Members

Russell Jarvis informed the attending members that there were 42 new members. Russell Jarvis asked the members to vote the new members in to the society.

Proposed by Jez Davies

2nd Ken Robson

3. Chairman's Report

- In addition to my report in the accounts the Chairman would like to add a couple of more items.
- The Society held its annual Speaker Evening in July as part of the Town Councils "Rushden Party Week". This year we will be the Evening will be on the 13th June with a talk on "Growing a healthy allotment without the use of pesticides" by Pauline Pears.
- Rowan Gate School, a school that caters for children with various disabilities, approached us to ask for volunteers to help the children with gardening activities. 4 of our members are now helping at the school. One of our members asked if would put out an appeal for various items that members no longer had a use for. The response from the members has been heart-warming and generous, and we have already received many items. One member has supplied us some unused loppers and shears 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.
- There had been a request for some more palisade fencing at Washbrook Road at the top end between the 2 gates which has been put up over winter.

- The Field Steward with members of the Committee have added barbed wire to the top of the palisade fencing by the gates. They would like to add barbed wire to the parts of the Greenway palisade fencing that does not have brambles and foliage. We will be putting out a request for volunteers to come forward and help put up the barbed wire.
- We have been asked by the Council Community Development Officer to let our members know that there will be a working party on the Greenway on Saturday the 9th March 11:00am to 3:00pm, and they are looking for volunteers to come and help. This will involve a litter pick, seed bombing and tree planting (bring a spade).
- Lastly, I would like to thank the Committee for their work they put into running the Society.

4. Treasurers Report

- Members have received a copy of the accounts prior to the meeting.
- The Treasurer apologised that a revised version of the accounts had been sent out. This was due to late receipt of a statement showing interest on one of the investments. Due to this the society will need to pay tax.
- The fields had used a lot of water this year due to the very dry and hot summer. Anglian Water are still not reading the meters properly and the field stewards do so in order to produce accurate readings. This has resulted in a £393 credit received this week.
- The entry under Legal and Professional is the planning permission required for the new tractor shed at Grafton Road.
- Most expenditure was for the Asbestos survey, mower replacement and the additional and replacement fences.
- Income from the sales at the Stores was good, producing a profit. The more sales i.e. profit, helps to keep the rents down.
- Two major accounts receive interest. Because one is for a fixed period the interest of £4500 will be added in 2020.
- It is necessary to keep a sum available in the investment account (not tied up in long term investments) in order to pay for large projects.
- Although £4400 more was spent than income, the general running made a small profit of £1000.

Peter Wright asked if advice was given before the high cost of the asbestos survey was spent. The Chairman explained that it is required by law to survey and remove asbestos from society property. Quotes were obtained from three companies for the survey, one of which was £4K+VAT. The society used a company costing less and used by the council. They produced a 151 page report covering all the fields. The annual inspection in future is the responsibility of the society, field stewards will need to check for storm damage and fragments coming out of the ground. 20 tons of asbestos was removed, including 1.5 tons found in a trailer behind trees which had obviously been left some time ago. The total cost of removal is £15K and leaves the society in a good position should it be inspected.

There were no other questions and the accounts were approved.

Proposed Pam Clarke

2nd Alan Martin

All agreed to approve.

Anita Medlock thanked the Treasurer for his hard work, the attendees clapped their appreciation.

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.
- Last year's estimate was £2.50 per pole, actual expenditure was £2.49 per pole. It is estimated that running cost for next year will be £2.55 per pole. This is assuming the water costs will not be so high and stationery costs will be less. The tractor insurance is now included in 'Tractor'. The rent will be collected via bank transfer or at the Stores so there will be no need to hire the hall. Estimated running costs are £11500. It is recommended to keep the rent the same at £2.50 per pole.
- The Treasurer proposed to keep the rent at £2.50 per pole.

Proposed John Bowerman

2nd Pam Clarke

A show of hands showed unanimous agreement.

Jez Davies asked what the cost was to repair the ride on mower at Washbrook Road. The Chairman stated the committee were trying to source a replacement starting motor for the current mower as the mower had been inspected and nothing wrong was found, it still didn't work after the inspection. Pam Clarke suggested a new mower is purchased as it is appreciated the need for a ride on mower to save man hours and effort of the field steward. Gloria Wright stated that at one time members were responsible for cutting the grass in front of their own plots. Jez Davies asked who is responsible for the car park. The Chairman stated that the field steward cuts the car park. Peter Wright said if there is an issue than we would do it for him. The Chairman stated that there are two volunteers at Bedford Road who help with the cutting of the grass.

- Bob Cowper said that for the £100 per year the field stewards received for doing their role they should be commended for their hard work and all attendees clapped their appreciation and thanks.
- Peter Wright thanked the Treasurer for his clear written and spoken report.
- Anita Medlock thanked the Secretary for her work.

6. Election of Reporting Accountant

The Accounts for the year 2017/18 were agreed. There were no objections to re-elect Denton Tavera as Reporting Accountant for the society.

Proposed Jez Davies

2nd Gloria Wright

A show of hands showed unanimous agreement

7. Any Other Business

Rule 20.2 of the new Rule Book

This rule states:

20.2 The Committee will be limited to a maximum spend value per item/project. This maximum value will be agreed at the AGM. Items/projects above the value will be agreed by a vote at the AGM or SGM.

The Chairman stated that over the last few years members had been more involved in approving expenditure. This was a good thing. There was a discussion on what the agreed maximum spend should be. The Treasurer said that normal practice was a fixed amount of 10% to be reviewed annually. This would be £20K, but in the circumstances of the society he proposed £10K total per year which was a more realistic figure. Peter Wright said it was down to the committee to manage and make decisions for the society.

Proposed John Bowerman

2nd Mick Spalding

A show of hands showed unanimous agreement

9. Election of Officers

There was no contesting of officers to stand. No vote was required and those who stood are re-elected.

RJ thanked members for attending and closed the meeting.

Meeting Closed: 20:30

Signed _____

Counter signed _____

Date _____