

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 15 February 2022 at the Masonic Hall

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:42pm (the start was delayed because the lighting system at the Hall failed)

In attendance

55 Members (plot holders), Including Chairman (Russell Jarvis RJ), Vice Chairman (Dave Flook DF), Secretaries – (Membership and Minute), Treasurer (Pasq Di Salvo PDS)

1 Associate member

1 Visitor

Apologies:

Harry Curtis

1. Minutes of last Meeting

The minutes of the AGM held on 7 September 2021 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 Ray Mc Donnell

Seconded Julie Kinsella

The minutes were passed as agreed

2. New Members

Russell Jarvis informed the attending members that there were 16 new members since the last AGM. Russell Jarvis asked the members to vote the new members in to the society.

Proposed Peter Wright

Seconded Mick Spalding

3. Chairman's Report

As it has only been 5 months since the last AGM, there is very little to report.

- The Queen's Green Canopy – the Society will be ordering 3 free trees from the Woodland Trust, one for each field, and they will be planted to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- The Rushden Town Council Celebrate Rushden Event will take place this year 28 May to 12 June and the town council will be putting on events again. The committee have been discussing whether to put on a speaker as an evening event as the Society has done in the past. All expenses are paid for by the Town Council.
- The Stores profits have been very good for the last two years and the profit has helped with preventing an increase in the plot rents.
- There is a good supply of compost, fertiliser, and netting in the store, but the Society is unable to source the 20kg bags of chicken pellets (sold for £10) and can only get the 8kg

tubs. This is because the pellets are being sold by farmers to power companies to burn in the electricity plants at a higher price than the agricultural companies can pay.

4. Treasurers Report

Members have received a copy of the accounts prior to the meeting.

The Society reported an expenditure of £1700, which was £500 over the £1200 that was on the budget for the anticipated spend on field maintenance – this was due to the cost of the road repairs for each of the 3 fields.

The Society is on track as per the proposed budget for the rest of the expenditure.

Gloria Wright requested a hard copy of the accounts – PDS will provide a hard copy.

Michael Taylor asked for the sales profit. PDS explained that it was £3000. Over £28,000 sales have been taken

Michael Taylor asked for an explanation about why the net worth has gone down by approximately £2000- PDS explained that this was due to the investment in improving the roads on all of the fields.

Proposed Tony Wills
Seconded Karen Watson

All attendees agreed to approve.

5. Annual Rent Review

The Treasurer (PDS) discussed the analysis for the proposed rent review which shows expenditure against pole income. The rent for each pole will remain at £2.50 for the year 2021/2022 (the profit from the Society's store sales has helped prevent any increase in plot rents)

A show of hands showed unanimous agreement

6. Election of Reporting Accountant

The Accounts for the year 2020/2021 were agreed. There were no objections to re-elect Denton Tavera as Reporting Accountant for the society.

Proposed Dave Flook
Seconded Trevor Powell

7. Any Other Business

7.1. Pond for Highfield Road Field - Sponsored by Julie Kinsella

Julie has spoken to as many of the members on the Highfield Rd field and everyone is supportive of her proposal.

The area suggested for the pond is in the far corner on the right-hand side of the field (from the main gate) which is approximately 40 poles in size. It is an area that regularly floods, the water sits on top of the area and sometimes goes into the adjacent houses gardens. 2 members have tried to cultivate but were not successful because of the flooding even in the

summer (was flooded in June 2021). A pond would make a good feature to improve biodiversity on the field.

The Woodland Trust will supply a selection of native trees free – including bee friendly trees as long as the Society requests trees during February for delivery in September. The trees could be planted in this area too, RJ- the Woodland Trust sells packs of 4 trees for £14.95. Julie also suggested a wildflower area that can be achieved by sprinkling on seeds easily available.

Other people on the Highfield Rd field will need to help and there will be a cost for equipment to dig the hole – Shaun Evans gave the information that one day hire is approximately £120 from Stable Hire for a 3-ton digger and the rate goes down for subsequent days.

If there is not enough clay in the area, a liner would be needed – this would be approximately £300 which would need to come out of Society funds, however, as the water sits on the surface for most of the year, a liner may not be required. Some suppliers of pond liners provide free underlay.

The depth of the pond needs to be agreed on and it could be banked using the soil that is dug up to create the pond. Julie works full time and cannot oversee or lead on the project but is happy to pass on the information she has obtained by research. The tree roots provided by the Woodland Trust would help with the flooding and provide a haven for wildlife too improving the biodiversity.

Julie confirmed that the pond would not affect any of the other plots on the field and would not affect the residents neighbouring the area. The area is surrounded by fences belonging to the residences adjacent to the area and there is also a Heras fence cordoning off most of the area accessible from the field. There is a 12-foot gap which could be filled using a pallet fence as Julie has noticed there is a pond on John Clark Way that only has an 'H-Fence' surrounding it which indicates that the council would not require a more significant barrier.

Lynne Powell – Suggested that the Princes Trust or Probation service could be approached as they may be able to help with the labour. Lynne also suggested that there should be a £500 limit on the spend.

John Edmundson - wondered if there would be an implication for the Society's Insurance – RJ confirmed the Society has 3rd party insurance. RJ will check with the insurers if there would be any additional charges if one of the fields had a pond.

Sue Dawkins – commented that members shouldn't really take cars on to the area because it is boggy, but people do and that it may be some people don't realise that it was inadvisable to do so.

Gloria Wright - wondered if sand was needed under the liner. Julie explained that the free underlay is often supplied, and this would mean that no sand was needed.

Karen Watson - Applying for trees needs to be done now – we could call it the Jubilee Corner. The free trees could be ordered from the Woodland Trust regardless of whether there was a pond installation.

Mark Cox - asked how deep Julie anticipated that the pond would be just in case someone fell in. Julie stated that the depth would be something that the team leading on the project should decide upon and suggested if there was a concern about someone drowning, that the Society could invest in a life ring which would provide assurance that safety is being taken seriously.

The Queen's Green Canopy project – This is a project being promoted by the Woodland Trust to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. RJ - the Society is already applying for 3 trees for this project, one for each field – this is also in the Chairman's report.

Proposed by Julie Kinsella
Seconded by Anita Medlock

The creation of the pond and tree planted area on the Highfield Rd Site was agreed by a show of hands.

8. Election of Officers

The meeting was handed over to the Vice Chair, Dave Flook.

Both candidates, Russell Jarvis and Peter Wright were given the opportunity to read out their resumes.

The votes were counted by the Treasurer, the Membership Secretary and the Visitor, Rae Levene, was the independent invigilator.

61 Postal Votes Issued

Results

65 Russell Jarvis

43 Peter Wright

1 Abstained

Russell Jarvis voted in as Chairman until the AGM 2024.

Meeting Closed: 20:48

Signed_____

Counter signed_____

Date _____