

# DRAFT

## Royal Paddocks Allotments Annual General Meeting minutes

11 November 2025, 7.45 pm

St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road, Teddington.

Present: 74 ploholders plus Councillor Caroline Wren.

Apologies were received from: Adriana Mendoza, Vladimir Valionkin, Julie & David Wright, Hilary Griffiths, Carol Dukes, Mark Buckley, Martin Scotton and Councillors Robin Brown, Jim Millard and Phil Geisler

1.	<b>Welcome from the Chairman and apologies</b> – Karen Saywell, in the Chair, welcomed those attending.
2.	<b>Minutes of the 2024 AGM</b> – these were unanimously approved by a show of hands
3.	<b>Matters arising from the minutes</b> It was confirmed that the Ploholders' Committee had followed up on a member's suggestion for using funds for skips on site and additional pumps. Richmond Council allotment regulations and Allotments Officer were consulted. The RPA approach is aligned in defining that the management of waste is the individual responsibility of each ploholder. The Pump Team confirmed that the current 32 pumps is sufficient for RPA needs, managing well in the recent dry season.
4.	<b>Chairman's annual report</b> Karen Saywell presented her annual report, which is available in full on the RPA website. Her theme was 'value for money', given the very reasonable annual rents. She listed all the events held in the past year and thanked the volunteers of the café team led by Anne and the social team led by Ruth.  The contribution of other volunteers to the management and maintenance of the site was recognised and highlighted. These included: the work parties; the website team; the vehicle gate team; the Inspections team; the pumps team; plus those who manage and maintain the living (Andrew's) hedge, the compost toilet fedge, the toilets, the grass outside the Seed Store and the flower beds. Karen also thanked the committee for its support over the past year.  Emphasising the desirability of the RPA plots, it was confirmed that there were so many applicants that the waiting list has been temporarily closed again.
5.	<b>Treasurer's financial report and presentation of accounts</b> Andrew Stanley was thanked for his support in the handover over the Treasurer's role to Jo Box after six years in post. The report confirmed the financial health of the RPA, with a surplus of some £7,400 for the year, with the main source of income being rentals (£5,763), the café (£2,209) and events (£1,492). Potential major expenditure on site maintenance was listed and future project suggestions were invited. Len Cowking was thanked for his role in overseeing the accounts. The Accounts were accepted by a show of hands.  The full report and accounts are available on the RPA website.

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<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Presentation of Best Plot certificates</b></p> <p><i>Best Newcomer: The Derek Mason Cup</i> <i>Certificates presented by Councillor Caroline Wren, Cup presented by Tim Carter</i></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Plot 114 Amy Jones and Melissa Wakeling 2<sup>nd</sup> Plot 109 Stew Horne 3<sup>rd</sup> Plot 134F Sally and Steve Rawes</p> <p><i>Best half plot: The Barbara Wood Cup</i> <i>Presented by Councillor Caroline Wren</i></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Plot 153f Pamela &amp; David Boyd 2<sup>nd</sup> Plot 33F Jane Brocklesby 3<sup>rd</sup> Plot 136B Faith Painter</p> <p><i>Best full plot: The Challenge Trophy</i> <i>Presented by Councillor Caroline Wren</i></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Plot 30 Jenny and Dave Gilbert (RPA Cup) 2<sup>nd</sup> Plot 3 Viv Kelmsley 3<sup>rd</sup> Plot 4 Carol Ager</p> <p>Councillor Caroline Wren was thanked.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Election of The Plotolders' Committee Members for 2025 - 2028</b></p> <p>Andrew Stanley, Christine Knight and Vladimir Valionkin who stood down from the committee were duly thanked for their service.</p> <p>Nominees for election to the committee: Richard Tavender (Plot 104), Dan Read (Plot 155), Caroline Squires (Plot 96B, 97B).</p> <p>All three were unanimously elected.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p>Councillor Wren explained the situation with the Shacklegate Lane Cemetery allotments and offered to share a link for individuals to respond to the planning request.</p> <p>A query was raised as to whether RPA is aligned with the Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan and that of the Royal Parks. Karen advised that she had input to the original draft for Richmond. Jenny Bourne mentioned the contributions to site biodiversity such as the native hedge.</p> <p>A plotholder suggested that details of the cups and a list of past winners would be helpful. It was advised that some of the information is in the RPA Centenary book that is sold at annual events.</p> <p>In response to a suggestion to offer RPA plots to Shacklegate Lane plotholders, the restricted catchment area and long waiting list for RPA was explained.</p> <p>In response to a query about surplus produce, it was explained that many food banks do not take fresh produce, but the charity Richmond AID, next to Teddington library, would accept produce on Tuesdays for distribution to their members on Wednesdays.</p> <p>A vote of thanks to the Chairman was made.</p> <p>There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm.</p>