

Royal Paddocks Allotments Annual General Meeting minutes

15 November 2022, 7.45 pm

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

Present: 55 plotholders plus Councillors and members of the Management Committee:
Jim Millard, Robin Brown and Caroline Wren.

Apologies were received from: Anne Wingrove, David Miller, Julie & David Wright, Martin Scotton, Adriana Mendoza, Mike Veysey, Lucinda & Keith Manthe, Chris Pocock, Mark & Carol Buckley, Flora Souper, Ruth Walker

1.	Welcome from the chair and apologies – Karen Saywell, in the Chair, welcomed those attending.
2.	Minutes of the 2021 AGM – these were approved by a show of hands
3.	Matters arising from the minutes – there were no matters arising
4.	Chairman's annual report Karen Saywell presented her annual report, which is available in full on the RPA website. She started with a thank you to the previous Chairman and Hon secretary (David Harnden and David Laughrin), recognising that they had not yet been publicly thanked for their hard work over the years. Karen went on to list all the achievements on the site over the past year, citing the significant modernisation of the RPA website which allows members to see for themselves what has been achieved via the reports, photos and videos that are all available at www.rpa.org.uk Referring to the ways of working of the committee, Karen advised that financial control procedures had been underpinned to ensure that RPA funds continue to be well managed. She also advised that the concept of fixed terms for committee members was being discussed. Drawing attention to the importance of volunteers at the RPA and the contribution that they make, Karen mentioned the events that are organised and the work that is carried out on site through the year by many teams and individuals. She thanked them all. The committee was also thanked for its support over the past year. In conclusion, Karen encouraged all members to consider volunteering to support the RPA in the coming year.
5.	Treasurer's financial report and presentation of accounts Andrew Stanley reported that income for the year was substantially up at £12,605 (compared to £7,929 in the previous year), due to the reopening of the café and resumption of social events. The Centenary Book also contributed to income, with sales of close to £1,500.

	Total expenditure was £5,433, resulting in a surplus of £7,172 (compared to a loss of £4537 the previous year). The major expenditure was on the dead and live hedges. Our reserves stand at £31,734, well in excess of our agreed minimum reserves of £10,000. Andrew thanked Martin Scotton for his work collecting rents and Len Cowking for his independent review of the accounts. The meeting endorsed the accounts unanimously.
6.	Presentation of Best Plot certificates The awards were presented as follows: <i>Best Newcomer:</i> <i>Certificates presented by Councillor Caroline Wren, Cup presented by Tim Carter</i> 1st Plot 143f Lizzie & Sarah Greenberg (Derek Mason Cup) 2nd Plot 157 Ana Zabala-Wynne & Concepcion Arteaga Lamela 3rd Plot 20F Jonathan Tapp & Miriam Dunphy <i>Best half plot:</i> <i>Presented by Councillor Robin Brown</i> 1st Plot 153f Pamela & David Boyd 2nd Plot 194b Hugh & Juliette Bailey 3rd Plot 132f James and Claire Sleigh <i>Best full plot:</i> <i>Presented by Councillor Jim Millard</i> 1st Plot 67 Mary Downham (RPA Cup) 2nd Plot 3 Vivienne Kelmsley 3rd Plot 125 Stuart & Sam Prebble
7.	Election of Plotholder Committee Members for 2022/2023 Plotholders standing for election were: Adriana Mendoza (151f); Andrew Stanley (120); Angela Kilenyi (12 f); Anne Wingrove (127b); Caroline Squire (96b, 97b); Christine Knight (82); David Harnden (152); Gill Hiley, (50); Jenny Bourne (27f, 28b); Jonathan Tapp (20f); Julia Mancell Smith (34); Karen Saywell (81); Vladimir Valionkin (196f). All the above were unanimously elected.
8.	Other Business An indicative vote of members present was taken on the idea of holding a quiet day once a month (no cars, strimmers or lawn mowers). Concerns expressed were around communication with members not knowing when it might be a quiet day; over-vigilant plotholders potentially upsetting others; the real need for such measures. The indicative vote by show of hands was extremely close and difficult to call. A vote of thanks to the Chairman was made. There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 8.50pm.