

Royal Paddocks Allotments Annual General Meeting minutes

7 November 2023, 7.45 pm

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

Present: 64 plotholders plus Jim Millard, Councillor, and member of the Management Committee. Councillors Robin Brown and Caroline Wren were unable to attend.

Tim Carter attended as guest to present the Derek Mason Cup

Apologies were received from: David Harnden, Lynne Horay, Chris Knight, Concepcion Arteaga Lamela, Fiona Orsini, Martin Scotton, Jon Tarlton, Julie & David Wright, Vladimir Valionkin, Gintare Janaviciute, Aldona Olchanowska, Mike & Shirley Veysey

1.	Welcome from the chair and apologies – Karen Saywell, in the Chair, welcomed those attending.
2.	Minutes of the 2022 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. Karen reviewed all the achievements over the past year, including the very successful plant sale in May and the well supported Autumn show in September. The major project of the year was the replacement of several of the water pumps. This was an enormous amount of work and much appreciated by the plotholders. 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 presented the Treasurer's report. The full report and the annual accounts are available on the RPA website. Andrew reported that income for the year was £9,578 (compared to £12,605 in the previous year), the decrease being due to the timing impact of the revenue from two Autumn socials plus the Centenary Book sales in the previous year's accounts. Total expenditure was £7,785, resulting in a surplus of £1,793. The major expenditure was £4,708 for the water pumps project. Reserves stand at £33,527, well in excess of the defined 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 with a show of hands.
6.	Presentation of Best Plot certificates The awards were presented by Councillor Jim Millard as follows: <i>Best Newcomer:</i> <i>Cup presented by Tim Carter</i> 1st Plot 33f Jane Brocklesby (Derek Mason Cup) 2nd Plot 85 Robert Boulert & Fiona Cryle 3rd Plot Ef Aldona Olchanowska <i>Best half plot:</i> 1st Plot 153f Pamela & David Boyd (Barbara Wood Cup) 2nd Plot 132f James & Claire Sleigh 3rd Plot 136b Faith Painter <i>Best full plot:</i> 1st Plot 4 Carol Ager (RPA Cup) 2nd Plot 67 Mary Downham 3rd Plot 3 Vivienne Kelmsley
7.	Election of Plotholder Committee Members for 2023/2024 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); Ruth Walker (21f); Vladimir Valionkin (196f). All the above were unanimously elected.
8.	Other Business Jenny Bourne spoke about wildlife on the site and how fortunate we are to have a number of plotholders with specialist knowledge (birds, bees, etc). She also proposed a vote of thanks to Karen for all her work as Chairman, There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 8.40pm.