

# Royal Paddocks Allotments Annual General Meeting minutes

19 November 2024, 7.45 pm

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

Present: 52 members plus Councillors Jim Millard, Robin Brown, Caroline Wren and Phil Giesler.

Apologies were received from: Adriana Mendoza, Susan Coehlo, David and Jane Harnden, Caroline Squire, Robert and Berty Clayton, Ray Hulm, Fiona Orsini, Martin Scotton, Vladimir Valionkin, Gintare Janaviciute, Julie and David Wright

1.	<b>Welcome from the chair and apologies</b> – Karen Saywell, in the Chair, welcomed those attending.
2.	<b>Minutes of the 2023 AGM</b> – these were approved by a show of hands
3.	<b>Matters arising from the minutes</b> – there were no matters arising
4.	<b>Chairman's annual report</b>  Karen Saywell presented her annual report, which is available in full on the RPA website.  Karen reviewed all the achievements over the past year. The events, including the very successful Plant Sale and Autumn Show were highlighted. Karen listed all the maintenance and improvement works carried out on site over the year and thanked all the teams and individuals who keep the site in good order and a pleasant place to be.  The committee was also thanked for its support over the past year.
5.	<b>Treasurer's financial report and presentation of accounts</b>  Andrew Stanley reported that income for the year was £11,129.45 (compared to £9578.64 in the previous year)  Total expenditure was £5,043.56, resulting in a surplus of £6,085.89. The major expenditure was £2,911.20 on refurbishing the pumps across the site. Our reserves stand at £39,612.49.  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.  Andrew invited ideas from members for future project expenditure. Two suggestions raised at the meeting were for communal skips and additional pumps.

<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed Constitution amendments</b></p> <p>1.To make the working of the committee more manageable, it was proposed to reduce the size of the committee from 10-14 to 8-12.</p> <p>This change was carried overwhelmingly. There were 2 votes against.</p> <p>2. It was proposed that a 3-year term be introduced for committee members with a maximum 6-year limit. The purpose is to encourage a good turnover of members, and to ensure that new members know they are committing to a finite term.</p> <p>This change was carried overwhelmingly. There were 5 votes against.</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Presentation of Best Plot certificates</b> - Compered by Cllr Jim Millard</p> <p><i>Best Full plot – presented by Cllr Robin Brown</i></p> <p>1st Plot 4 Carol Ager (RPA cup)  2nd Plot 67 Mary Downham  3rd Plot 30 Jenny and Dave Gilbert</p> <p><i>Best Half plot – presented by Cllr Caroline Wren</i></p> <p>1st Plot 153f Pamela &amp; David Boyd (Barbara Wood cup)  2nd Plot 78f Annabel Lai-Fang &amp; Thomas Sherman  3rd Plot 33f Jane Brocklesby</p> <p><i>Best Newcomer – presented by Cllr Phil Giesler</i></p> <p>1st Plot 143b Susan Coelho  2nd Plot 197b Barbara Jablonska  3rd Plot 193f Charlotte Simpson</p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Election of The Plholders’ Committee Members</b></p> <p>The ploholders (with plot numbers in brackets) standing for election were:</p> <p>Adriana Mendoza (151f); Andrew Stanley (120); Anne Wingrove (127b); Christine Knight (82); Jo Box (160,161); Gill Hiley, (50); Jenny Bourne (27f, 28b); Jonathan Tapp (20f); Julia Mancell Smith (34); Karen Saywell (81); Ruth Walker (21f); Vladimir Valionkin (196f).</p> <p>All the above were unanimously elected.</p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Hampton Wick PCSO Dave Ould spoke about security issues on the site and encouraged ploholders to approach him in the café which he attends most Sundays.</p> <p>Jenny Bourne drew attention to her nature blog and invited contributions. She also proposed a vote of thanks to Karen for all her work as Chairman.</p> <p>There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 8.40pm.</p>