

FINAL

ROYAL PADDOCKS ALLOTMENTS, HAMPTON WICK

Minutes of the annual meeting of the Management Committee (MC), held on Wednesday 27 November 2024 at The Anglers, Teddington

Present:

Councillors: Robin Brown, Caroline Wren, Phil Giesler

Plotholder representatives: Karen Saywell (Plotholders' Committee chair),

Jo Box (Plotholders' Committee treasurer), Andrew Stanley, Caroline Squire, Angela Kilenyi

1. Apologies: Jim Millard

Welcome: Andrew Stanley welcomed all

2. Election of officers:

Chair: Karen Saywell proposed Andrew Stanley, seconded by Phil Giesler.

Vice-chair: Caroline Wren proposed Phil Giesler, seconded by Karen Saywell

Secretary: Karen Saywell volunteered to continue in role, all supported

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2023:

The minutes were confirmed as a true record.

4. Actions arising from the minutes:

The possibility of including the lock-ups in the buildings insurance cover.

AS reported a quote of £150 to insure the lock-up buildings, excluding contents.

Adding this insurance cover to existing one for Seed Store was supported by the MC.

ACTION: AS/JB to take forward to the Plotholders Committee for final decision.

Follow-up on MC recommendation to move some reserves to a fixed-term account with higher interest.

AS reported that the action had been taken and some £25k had been deposited in 6 month notice accounts. After discussion about the admin task of renewing such accounts every 6 months, it was recommended to move to a 30-day notice account that would also offer higher interest.

5. Plotholders' Committee Chairman's annual report: Shared in advance.

The report was taken as read. No questions were raised.

6. Plotholders' Committee Treasurer's annual report: Shared in advance, along with the annual accounts. The report was taken as read. There were no questions.

7. Constitution Changes

The MC unanimously supported the proposed changes and ratified the supporting vote recorded at the RPA AGM on 19th November 2024.

The changes are:

Committee size reduced from 10-14 to 8-12

Introduction of a 3-year term and max 6 year continuous limit

FINAL

8. Fixing of rents

AS proposed no change to rents, given the healthy reserves. He confirmed that the current low plot rents were possible because the RPA has very low outgoings and benefits from volunteer ploholders who maintain the site.

The proposal was unanimously supported.

9. Overdue rent action

AS advised that all rents were collected by 11th November.

There were no overdue rents to report

10. AOB

Waste management

KS reported that RPA had been registered for 3 Waste Management exemptions. These were: Spreading waste to benefit non-agricultural land; Using Mulch; Aerobic composting and associated prior treatment.

The Environment Agency had officially contacted RPA to check that these were actually required. Advice from the National Allotments Society confirmed that the Composting exemption was not needed on sites like RPA that do not have a central composting system. A check with the Richmond Council Allotments Officer, facilitated by CW, confirmed that the council allotments did not have any registered Waste Management exemptions. Following these checks, the RPA has now de-registered. KS and CW confirmed that the approach to waste management as described in the respective RPA and Council site regulations/T&Cs were aligned in firmly placing responsibility for waste on individual allotment tenants. It was recognised that this also addressed the suggestion for communal skips raised at the RPA AGM.

Trees surrounding the RPA site

AS spoke about the large trees surrounding the site with respect to the potential for them to come down in bad weather such as the recent storms. KS advised that the Royal Parks were responsible for these trees and conduct regular surveys to assess for and carry out any work deemed necessary.

Date of next annual meeting: 8 pm on Wednesday 19 November 2025