



## Scruton Allotments Association

Station Road, Scruton, Northallerton, DL7 0QN

[www.scrutonallotments.org.uk](http://www.scrutonallotments.org.uk)

[info@scutonallotments.org.uk](mailto:info@scutonallotments.org.uk)

### Meeting Minutes Scruton Allotment AGM held at Scruton Village Hall 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

**ATTENDANCE: ANDREW CARTER, IAN POWELL, JANICE POWELL, JOE LOFTHOUSE, RICHARD ZEALLEY, JOHN VICKERS, BRIDGET VICKERS, JOHN CHERRY, JOY BEARDSWORTH, KEN ROSS, ANDREW VENUS, LYNDA VENUS, HAZEL PRATT, WILL PRATT, JACKIE RUSSELL, DAVID RUSSELL, SYD NYE, BOB SCORER, GEORGE & MARLYN EWART, ELIZABETH DAVIES.**

**APOLOGIES: SUSAN RODGERS, SUE BURNETT, JOANNA CRESWELL, JOHN COOK**

Welcome	Comments
<b>Welcome &amp; outline for the evening by Chairman.</b>	The meeting was opened by Syd Nye who thanked everyone for their attendance. In response to the request by the committee that as many could attend the AGM as possible so we could look at the proposals for moving the association forward, it was pleasing to see so many attending, possibly encouraged by the temptation of cheese and wine during the meeting. The normal format for the AGM would follow but with the addition of proposals as to potential developments within the plots and fund-raising options. SN thanked Joe Lofthouse for his involvement over the year and his talk at the end of the meeting.
<b>Chairmans report</b>	The past year had been an interesting one given it was the first full year without our past chair Chris Snell, changes within the association will be provided in each of the following reports, but it was positive to see that most plots were now allocated, Syd also announced that he would be standing down as chair, given that he was only ever in the position as an interim measure.
<b>Treasurers Report</b>	Following the agreement from the last AGM that the association changed accounts, this had now been set up complete with appropriate signatures. April is the end of the financial year so the full end of year accounts are still to be confirmed, however, currently an income of £1800 was made up from plot rental and supplemented by social events. Discussions had taken place with our landlord relating to potential rent increase given there had been nothing since 2007, new proposal would be an increase to £42.50. Expenditure of £1300 was due to rent, insurance, repairs to machinery, maintenance and materials for sheds and water bowsers.



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	<p>RZ also announced that the association had a duty of care to look at data protection in that concerns around H &amp; S had been raised and how we could contact any plot holders or indeed plot holders contacting other members should accidents occur.</p>
<b>4. Secretary's Report</b>	<p>IP gave a rundown of the last AGM highlighting the main points. Suggestions had been made to incorporate the resident rabbit as part of the committee as he or she spent the most time on the allotment. On a more serious note, the committee had made a lot of beneficial improvements as to how not just the committee worked but also in improving the communication amongst the members,. It was also important that after last year's AGM request to hopefully incorporate any female members on to the committee, that Elizabeth Davies had become an integral member of the committee.</p>
<b>5. Election of Officers</b>	<p>Considering the current chair was standing down the secretary asked for nominations for the position of chair. Nominations proposed were for John Vickers to be appointed with Joe Lofthouse as Vice Chair, the nominations were seconded and approved.</p> <p>The chair then asked for any nominations for the position of Treasurer, Richard Zealley was proposed and seconded.</p> <p>The chair asked for nominations of Secretary, Ian Powell was proposed and seconded.</p> <p>The committee was voted in as 2022 being the chair &amp; vice chair, treasurer, secretary, Syd Nye &amp; Elizabeth Davies, the committee also retained to co-opt additional members as they felt appropriate.</p> <p>This formally closed the business of the AGM.</p>
<b>6. Members Forum</b>	<p>JV now opened the forum to outline future developments and proposals.</p> <p><b>Car Parking;</b> Over the past year there had been issues raised by mainly the cricket club regarding parking on the area leading up to the cricket field, this was mainly due to potential insurance claims, past requests that the allotment should pay the cricket club, so they were covered in case of any issues had been rejected. The cricket club have now placed a notice informing cars are parked at owner's risk. There were also concerns raised about using the field in extreme weather and the allotment committee would like to remind the members to please use a little common sense if the ground conditions were not suitable to be driven over.</p>



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	<p><b>Memorial Garden;</b> Suggestions of turning 1 – 2 plots into a memorial plot or show garden, alternative was to place a name plate on the entrance, an additional suggestion was that given the entrance where the notice board is positioned the gate and fence are now in need of being replaced, it might be worth looking at a more appropriate design which could incorporate the name or recognition of Chris Snell?</p> <p><b>Sheds;</b> A commitment to provide some form of shed to each plot had continued due to JV begging, acquiring, and replacing parts to repair where necessary, if any member was aware of or know of any sheds that might be free to a good home, please contact the committee.</p> <p><b>Water Bowsers;</b> Most plots had now some form of water storage, the communal water bowsers behind the communal shed had been repaired and should be ready for use.</p> <p><b>Fires;</b> A question was asked about having an area to hold a communal fire area? Whilst we have an agreement with the landlord to hold one fire each year outside the perimeter of the allotments at the time of the autumn clean up. With this year that was missed due to the weather. If plot holder do intend to have a fire on their own plot, they <b>must ensure it is extinguished before they leave their plot.</b></p> <p><b>Health &amp; Safety;</b> This was still in process to finalise the details, but there are issues relating to accidents whilst on the allotments which should be logged within an accident book. This has arisen from a couple of incidents where fortunately someone was not on their own but could have proved to be serious. This point relates back to the Data Protection and how we and where we can provide contact details so plot holders can get in touch with next of kin in case of an emergency. The association will also need to undertake risk assessments on all communal equipment which then links into the need to ensure that appropriate training is undertaken especially with the two rotavators.</p> <p><b>Compost;</b> Compost bins had been installed along the inside of the allotment, these would be for plot holders to access and deposit waste produce, the original deal with the landlord was to provide one load of manure each year. This year we had managed to arrange for an additional load with the idea of letting one of the loads rot down,. Unfortunately the bins had not been constructed in time and as such both piles were used. It is important that we allow the manure to rot down further as will be explained by the talk given by JL after the meeting. The association has the option to acquire additional options</p>
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	<p>such as sheep fleeces, leaves from the village green area, and other options are being investigated.</p> <p><b>Fund Raising:</b> Following the success of the recent GQT held in the village hall it was proposed to hold a second event this year, committee to look at suitable panellists. The annual Chris Snell Potato Weighing competition would again be held and it is hoped for it to coincide with a produce and plant stall. The association have been approached by the Scruton Playing Fields committee with an option to host a B-b-Q for the Feast on the 24<sup>th</sup> June. All proceeds from the event would go to the Allotment Association. The day would consist of various stalls during the day and then a live band and DJ in the evening. JV confirmed it was a big ask but it was potentially a very large fund raising option which would help control our finances. Agreement from the meeting was to go ahead and initial names to be collected by the secretary.</p>
	<p><b>Short presentation by Joe Lofthouse RHS Harlow Carr.</b></p> <p>JL provided several slides and explanation as to how best to get the most from any compost. Whilst manure is often the favourite option if available it does work best when it has been allowed to break down further which can take up to 6 months. If you are going to put sprout stocks or any item that is of a similar nature then it is best to be either shredded or cut up into small section to aid the break down, grass clippings can be also used but in moderation as too thick a layer will only produce the wrong environment, cardboard and or waste paper are also good for adding to compost bins.</p> <p>The golden rule is to allow any waste to break down before using.</p> <p>Hopefully, this will help plot holders understand and be able to use the bins appropriately, whilst the committee continue to source as many options as possible.</p>
	<p>At the conclusion of the meeting a thank you to all attending was given by the chair and the proceedings closed at 9.30pm.</p>