

# Royal Paddock Allotment Committee Annual General Meeting minutes

**17 November 2016, 8 pm**

Hampton Wick Royal Cricket Club, Bushy Park, Hampton Wick KT1 4AZ

Present: 56 ploholders recorded (names available on the register), including committee members listed below, and Councillor Jerry Elroy and Tim Carter.

Committee members:

David Harden – Chair	David Lainchbury	Jenny Bourne
Carol Dukes – Treasurer	Theo Christophers	Gaby Armstrong - Secretary
Ashley Cato	Martin Scotton	Gill Hiley
Nick Baylis	Dan Read	

**Apologies received from:** John Greaves, Anne Wingrove, Joanie Fulton, Richard Pagan, Cecile Ferrari, Liz James, Brian Harper-Lewis, Mark Buckley, Christine Thorpe and Judy Hodges.

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome from the chair and apologies</b> – David H thanked all for attending and the Hampton Wick Royal Cricket Club for use of their premises and listed apologies shown above.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of the 2015 AGM</b> – the minutes were agreed.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters arising from the minutes</b> – there were no matters arising from the minutes..
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Chairman’s annual report – David Harnden</b> David H reported on a peaceful year. He thanked all those who give their time to keep our community running smoothly and apologised to anyone he has missed from the list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cafe team led by Anne Wingrove, providing the social heart of our community.</li> <li>• The Social Committee led by Jenny Bourne who plan and put on events throughout the year.</li> <li>• The newsletter team – Jenny Bourne, Gill Hiley and the rest of the editorial team.</li> <li>• The gate team led by Ashley Catto who lock and unlock the vehicle gates each night and morning helping to keep the site secure.</li> <li>• The plot inspections team led by David Lainchbury who work to keep standards of cultivation monitored.</li> <li>• Andrew Saunders for maintenance of the hedge on the southern border of the site, which now provides an effective screen from the public footpath reducing the number of break-ins to the site.</li> <li>• Mark Buckley and Carol Dukes for creation and maintenance of our excellent website and sending emails.</li> <li>• Geoff Boyes who provides repairs to the pedestrian gate lock. Please be gentle with the gate to prevent damage.</li> <li>• Chris Pocock for maintenance of the compost toilet.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jon Anderson for maintenance of the bee area</li> <li>• Ray Hulm for maintenance of the pumps.</li> <li>• Martin Scotton for annual collection of rents for plots.</li> <li>• All those who join the communal work parties and volunteer to help at events.</li> </ul> <p>David H reported that the committee are aware that we continue to experience fruit theft by humans (all fruit stripped from trees/bushes, netting removed and no evidence of debris that animals/birds would leave). Plotholders were asked to be alert for any unusual activity or intruders on site and report any suspicions to the committee, in the hope that a pattern may emerge. By way of some compensation the fig trees installed in the planters outside the cafe are flourishing.</p> <p>The BBC filmed on site an episode of 'comedy' series Josh, featuring Jack Dee. This provided a welcome income of £500, and was surprisingly popular with female plotholders! None of the concerns raised over plots being trampled were realised.</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Accounts and financial report – Carol Dukes</b></p> <p>Carol thanked Mike McMinn for his audit of the accounts and Martin Scotton for collection of plot rents, which are our largest annual income.</p> <p>We are in a strong position, with extra income of £500 from BBC filming on site this year, on top of rent and membership fees, cafe and social event takings.</p> <p>Our largest spend has been on insurance, plus £200 spent on seed store shelving to store event equipment and just under £400 on hedge-laying. There was a surplus this year of £6,450 and a balance of nearly £30,000, which increases year on year. Carol suggested that in future we may want to think about how this reserve is spent.</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Social Secretary Report – Jenny Bourne</b></p> <p>2016 started with Plotholder's Question Time in January, a new idea that proved popular.</p> <p>Seedy Sunday followed with the sale of seeds and hazel support sticks cut from our own coppice, yielding £62 profit.</p> <p>The Plant Sale was busy and raised over £200; Jenny asked that more plotholders grow some extra seedlings to stock this popular event next year.</p> <p>The Autumn Social went very well with the tent team attending at an early hour to set up the gala tents. Richmond's Deputy Mayor attended along with our MP Tania Mathias and Councillor Jerry Elroy. There was a high standard of entries for the competitions and it was great to see new plotholders entering. Many thanks to Ruth Walker for organising. This was the first year that the Jenny Trevillion memorial cup was awarded for the best produce in show – to Janet and Nick Baylis. Jenny T was a leading figure on the committee and in the plot inspection team, who is missed by many. The BBQ, Café, Bar, Raffle and produce stall all did brisk business. Jenny thanked all those involved as well as those who contribute quietly by meeting and greeting visitors to our events and keeping the area strimmed and tidy.</p> <p>The final event for 2016 will be the Christmas Café on 18 December with mulled wine and Bake Off standard mince pies!</p> <p>Involvement from all is welcome for next year's events as well as ideas for new events that plotholders may be able to lead.</p>

	<p>Dates for the 2017 diary:          Plotolders Question Time – 29 January          Seedy Sunday – 28 February          The Plant Sale – 24 April          Autumn Social – 25 September</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Presentation of Awards</b>          Presented by Councillor Jerry Elroy:</p> <p>Best half plot:          1<sup>st</sup> prize – Len Cowking (134b)          2<sup>nd</sup> – Elaine Sturman and Vladimir Gorbach (187b)          3<sup>rd</sup> – Peter Caughey (39b)</p> <p>Best full plot:          1<sup>st</sup> prize – Liz and Gray Rigge (83)          2<sup>nd</sup> – tied: Carol Agers (4) and Jon Tarlton (D)          3<sup>rd</sup> – Peter Caughey (40)</p> <p>Best Newcomer – presented by Tim Carter:          1<sup>st</sup> prize – Richard Pagan and Cecile Ferrari (182)          2<sup>nd</sup> – Ian and Jo Shillaker (86b)</p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Election of Plotholder Committee Members</b>          Plotolders standing for election were: Gaby Armstrong, 33b; Nick Baylis, 110f; Jenny Bourne, 27f, 28b; Ashley Catto, A, H; Theo Christophers, 148; Carol Dukes, 77; David Harnden, 152; Gill Hiley, 50; David Lainchbury, 131f, 132b; David Laughrin, 19; Dan Read, 155; Martin Scotton, 59; Christine Thorpe, 49          All the above were unanimously elected.</p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Any other Business</b></p> <p>i) David Harnden asked the plotholders to consider a proposal: to allow the Plotolders' Committee to use its discretion to spend the £500 BBC windfall in areas that might be open to debate under a strict interpretation of the constitution. David made it clear that this would only apply to this specific sum, it could not be spent on current members of the committee and the chairman must report on any such spending to the next AGM, although names might be withheld to prevent embarrassment.</p> <p>One plotholder raised concerns that the proposal did not allow enough scrutiny and further safeguards were needed. It was suggested that this could be improved by inviting the Management Committee to vet any decision on charitable spends from the fund. Cllr Jerry Elroy, as a councillor representative of the Management Committee, agreed to this, and it was accepted by those present.</p> <p>It was suggested that some of the fund could be used to for cash prizes for best plot winners. The Committee agreed to consider this.</p> <p>A vote was taken on the proposal (subject to Management Committee agreement) and all voted to accept it, with one vote against and two abstentions. [The proposal was agreed at the Management Committee</p>

	<p>meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>, with the safeguard that any such spending would have to be approved beforehand by the councillors on the Committee, with plotholder members abstaining. As there are four councillors, in the event of a tie the councillor who is chair or vice-chair would have the deciding vote.]</p> <p>ii) Several plotholders raised concerns about conditions of specific plots and plots in general. It was suggested that the plot inspection and eviction process can be ineffective. It was also suggested that the smaller catchment area and subsequently reduced waiting list may have led to a lack of incentive for plotholders to maintain their plots. David said this was unlikely as the length of the waiting list was not widely known. It was argued that a more likely reason for poorer levels of cultivation was that, due to personal problems of a key committee member, the first inspection of the 2016 growing season did not take place. The Committee agreed to keep an eye on inspections and eviction processes. The Committee will continue to review the catchment area and will consider expanding it if necessary.</p> <p>iii) Several requests were made for skip facilities to be available from time to time on site. It was agreed that this will be provided, whilst ensuring that vehicle access does not cause damage to plots. It was suggested that this could be achieved by using smaller skips, a high sided trailer or 'hippo-bags' which could be brought in using a smaller truck.</p> <p>iv) It was noted that work needs to be done to improve the condition of the vehicle tracks on site. The Committee will organise this.</p> <p>v) It was also noted that a new incinerator needs to be installed. The Committee will organise this too.</p>
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**AGM ended 9.05 pm**