

Winstanley Road Allotment Society AGM

Sunday April 21st 2024 12 noon. Amenities Hut.

Minutes

	Item	
1	Present	The Chair opened the meeting with a welcome E Raftery 66, J Dobrat 92b, s burns 63b, K Wilde 56a, E & C Thompson 82a. M Bempeki 35b
2	Apologies	Roger and Peter England send their apologies. We cannot attend the AGM as we are both working but wish to extend our appreciation to the committee for the work they put in to keep the allotments running smoothly. We are most grateful for time spent running the shop which is a great asset to all plot holders. Barzo Faris, Mira Palova, Tony McLaughlin
3	Minutes of AGM 2023	Those present were informed that there were no formal minutes on record for AGM 2023 due to main officers not being present.
4	Chair's report	Given by Linda Miller Firstly some well deserved thankyou's. To Simon & Alan for all their hard work on the shop. I think everyone will agree it is a real asset to the site & looks great. Jess for taking on the mammoth task & setting up an excellent electronic payment system. Special thanks to Frances & Charles for stepping into the breach, without their help we would have struggled to keep the committee afloat. Finally to Gabrielle & Sara for the newsletter which hopefully will become a regular feature & the Facebook page which is a great source of information & news Site news After the last AGM Councillor Eve Parker was invited on site to offer some information on how to go about applying for a grant & other financial help. This is ongoing. Any questions please don't hesitate to ask. Unfortunately you will all be aware of the state of the roads. We have made several enquiries with regards to repairing them, but to date no progress has been made. If anyone has any questions or ideas please come & have a chat.

		On the whole the site is ticking over nicely with new tenants, some with children which is excellent. Hopefully in the summer we will have events that will include them. Unfortunately, even though we have had less theft & vandalism there has been problems of fly tipping. This will not be tolerated anyone caught dumping rubbish will be severely dealt with. As ever we are a popular site with along waiting list. Simon in his role as letting officer is dealing with this. Thankyou Simon. I would like to finish by wishing all plot holders good health & a successful growing season weather permitting. Thank you.
5	Secretary report	Given by Frances Arnall <u>There have been a number of changes since the last AGM, Mary Stepien was elected as secretary at the last AGM, stood down for personal reasons in February, the committee thank Mary for her hard work. There is a new allotments officer at Trafford Council – Bob Rothwell. The committee have been working with him since his appointment regarding a number of site concerns, particularly the roadway and best practice with regard to non-cultivation of plots.</u> Site Issues. <u>There are a number of plots that need work doing on them to bring them up to the standard required by the tenancy agreement. There have been no formal inspections by Trafford whilst the new allotments officer settles in. However, we are expecting a visit in the next couple of weeks.</u> <u>There have been no site inspections by the committee over the winter. Electronic records show that 35 non-cultivation letters, and 16 ‘tidy up’ letters were sent by the committee to tenants.</u> <u>There are no electronic records on file for Non-Cultivation Letters- Notice to Quit letters sent out by Trafford.</u> New tenants. <u>From April 1st 2021 and April 1st this year we have electronic records for 5 tenants relinquishing their plots and 18 plots have been let.</u> <u>Greenhouse and shed applications.</u> <u>Up until April 1st there were 4 applications.</u> Committee Actions <u>Over the last year the committee has spent time exploring opportunities for grant funding for site</u>

		<u>maintenance, renting plots to community groups. The shop has been substantially upgraded, reroofed, and reorganised and in response to a shop survey, electronic methods of payments are now available. As far as possible communication with members has been in electronic format and this year the committee has brought in a quarterly newsletter as a means of sharing information and ideas. Contributions from members' welcome. Other documents, the constitution, information pack, formal plot sharing, have been reviewed and updated. There has been an issue with regard to the handover of the site email address. The committee is in the process of setting up a new email address and will inform members when this is operational.</u> Facebook <u>Sara Barlow runs Facebook, and we thank her for her efforts. Facebook is now one of the ways along with the emails and the newsletter that news and information can be disseminated to members.</u> Committee Membership <u>Currently the Committee has 1 vacancy.</u> Forum and Federation meetings. <u>There have been no meetings this year.</u> Water <u>To comply with TBC requirements the water was turned off from mid-November to end of March.</u> Bonfires. <u>Fires are banned on all of TBC's sites between April 1st and September 30th inclusive.</u> Entrance gates. <u>Members are reminded the gates should be closed after passing through, especially when leaving site.</u> Fly tipping <u>Rubbish is being dumped at the side of the car park. Please dispose of rubbish at the Council's sites.</u> Dobies Seeds <u>A modest fee to is paid to Allotments and Gardens Council which enables members to access 50% discount on seeds.</u> Shop. <u>Simon & his team have done an excellent shop refit and further developments will be happening in 2024. Members are encouraged to make use of the shop.</u> Matters and Motions <u>I have received no Matters or Motions to be raised at this meeting.</u>
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6	Treasurer report	Given by Jess Beckett. Jess presented the accounts. No questions were raised. Still in discussion with Barclays re non provision of card machine & change of bank mandate. A small amount of compensation has been paid by them. Accounts attached
7	Letting's Officer report	Given by Simon Peters This is a brief lettings report, a few weeks ago I took over from Mary, we had 22 plots on the waiting list and 3 plots available. All 3 plots have been let, since those plots were let. 3 more plots have become available which will be let in the next week or so, we are currently down to 18 on the waiting list. If you require any information please contact me either through the committee or the shop. The shop will in the near future be getting a bespoke website. Members will be informed when it is live.
8	Election of Officers and Committee	The list of proposed officers and committee members were put to the meeting and were unanimously voted in by attendees with no against or abstention.
9	Acceptance of Constitution	The proposed new constitution was put to the meeting any was unanimously voted in by attendees with no against or abstention.
10	AOB	A vote of thanks was tabled by the member from plot 56a to Simon & his team for all the work that has been carried out on the shop & to the committee for their hard work on behalf of members. It was suggested that a sign regarding the shop be put on the pedestrian gate in addition to the main gate for those who only use this entrance. A request was made for shelving space near the shop for surplus plants etc. Simon confirmed this was already in hand. Mr Raftery informed the meeting that Davison's pay £77/ton for scrap metal which could be considered when disposing of the unwanted shop cabin. The committee are waiting for a Trafford visit to discuss disposal. No other business. The meeting was closed by the chair.

Election of Officers

		Plot
Chair	Linda Miller	23
Secretary	Frances Arnall	58
Treasurer	Jessica Beckett	49a
Letting's Officer	Simon Peters	62
Member	Sara Barlow	19b
Member	Charles Morecroft	38a
Member	Vacancy	