

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Allotment Association held in the Trading Hut on Monday 30th October at 7.00pm 2023

Present - Trevor Bareham ( Chairperson) Jane Nicholls ( Hon Sec.) Keith Lomax (Treasurer) Mike Smart and Tony Smart (Plots Sec) Mick Kay ( Trading Sec) Barry Venables (Vice Chairperson)

- 1) **Apologies for absence.** – Wendy Stamp
- 2) **Minutes from previous meeting** were read.
- 3) **Matters arising from the minutes** – none
- 4) **President's address.**
- 5) **Chairman's report**

Its been an interesting year. A long, dry and bitterly cold winter followed by a very wet and cold spring. Then unseasonably warm weather in early October. It all adds up to challenges for us hardy perennials. The plot inspections have revealed abandoned and unkept plots and we have managed to contact the plot holders who m back have either handed them back or brought them up to scratch. We have tidied these up so they can be reallocated thereby keeping the waiting list ticking over and new members being allocated plots promptly. I would like to thank everyone who has numbered their plots. There have been other challenges. The theft of produce and other items being one of them. Committee members do their best to keep an eye out for suspicious activities we have a collective responsibility for security. The ongoing saga of land ownership rumbles on which Keith, Una or Steve will elaborate on. I would like to thank Kelly Warboys for the brilliant job she did as plot secretary. She managed to fit it in with working full time, tending her plot and training for running marathons It filled me with sadness that something had to give and that was her role on the committee. Mike and Barry continue to make the trading shed a success. Barry has replaced the taps on the site and they have maintained the equipment that is for hire. Thank you both. Jane the rock in which is sometimes a hard place continues her unerring effort to keep our records and paperwork in order along with the plot inspections. Thanks Jane. Keith does not just keep a tight rein on the finances but has worked tirelessly on remedying the land ownership by lobbying the council. By helping to make the allotments an asset to the community which adds another layer to protecting the site for generations to come. He has also filled the breach of plot secretary. All of these things we do voluntarily for our allotments community. Other voluntary acts that need a special mention are. – Hayley Risk for the entry for this years carnival. You and all those that dressed up and pushed your barrows, you all help to show the importance of the allotments. -Alex Graybow for her work on the community allotment, for the contribution to the local food bank and for organising craft events and for sharing her knowledge on growing produce-mith for the newsletter and all those that contribute to it. Thank you everyone for being part of this wonderful place

6) **Treasurers' Report** – see Accounts Sheet.

Income has benefited from the rise in interest rates with an increase of £125. Because of a lease different payment time for the Town Council rent, and a negotiated reduction our rent was £850. Increase this year from October 1<sup>st</sup> by 9.1%. £380 has been spent on improvements to infrastructure and £500 on skip hire leaving a surplus of £80.56. We have stocked up on purchases. Accounts carried unanimously

**Trading Secretary's Report** – it has been an up and down year. Trading has been good. Horticultural supplies ceased trading so we had to find a new supplier. We are now using Steve from Cheshire, starting this week. The machines have been used well, and the rotavator is now fixed and out on hire. Thanks to Barry Terry and Lisa for their never ending help and voluntary contributions

**Plot Secretary's Report** This year 67 plots have been allocated and 3 or 4 transfers to family members. Plot inspections have improved the condition of the plots and encouraged people who no longer work their plots to hand them back.

**Show secretary's Report** – no show position vac

7) **Election of officers and committee – all uncontested**

Chairperson Trevor Bareham

Treasurer - Keith Lomax

Plot Sec - Mike and Gony Smart

Vice-Chairperson - Barry Venables

Hon. Secretary – Jane Nicholls

Show Secretary – vacant

Committee members – none

Trading Secretary- Mick Kay has agreed to serve for another two years

8) **Proposals-** 1) To no longer have the role of President . Passed 5 abstentions

2) To pay the shed manager an honorarium of £500 per annum in recognition of their valuable work in managing the Shed which provides an essential service to allotment holders and raises funds for the Allotment Association. It would be paid on the 31/12 annually for the year just ending pro rata -- not passed

3) The committee have agreed that there will be no increase in rents for this financial year – passed

9) **Gate Security** – Thanks to Les and Christine Swallow for opening and closing gates

10) **A.O.B.**

a) In an update from the Town Council from Cllr Una Sidall – Norman the history of the loss of the allotments to Moat was explained and reassurance given that things will go right way. Apparently Maldon council have regained possession of their allotments after a year with government intervention. However after eight years of

trying to regain possession we are no further forward and have been asked to be patient

**Committee Monday November 27<sup>th</sup> - 7.00 pm Trading Hut**

**Date of next AGM Monday October 28<sup>th</sup> 2024 - 7.00pm Trading Hut**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50pm