

Golders Green Allotment Association

AGM Minutes

Thursday 14th March 2013 8pm

- 1. Apologies received:** Nick Jackson
Nora Perfect
Carona Estahazy
- 2. Minutes of 2012 AGM** received and were recorded as a true record of the meeting. Proposed Ken Brown, Seconded Audrey Brown.
- 3. Chairs Report:** Thanked all the committee members for their many hours of work with Self-management. Self-management is still going ahead although Barnet are being slow. Barnet now have lawyers devoted to helping with this process. Barnet have given an undertaking that when leases have all been signed they will be backdated to April 1st 2013. We still haven't had our Site Condition Survey back.

The Federation of Barnet Allotments have asked some of the bigger sites if they would be willing to manage a smaller site. There are a few in Barnet which unless can be taken in by bigger sites will be lost as these sites would not be able to self-manage on their own. We have been talking to a small site of 5 plots in Hendon called Tretawn Gardens and their representative Bryan Alcock is here tonight. The committee has agreed to bring this site under our umbrella and the Federation, Tretawn Gardens and Barnet are very happy that they will merge with us. Bryan as their rep is looking to be voted onto the committee. This merger will have no disadvantages to us, most importantly that site will now be able to continue as an allotment site.

You will have read in the recent Newsletter that the pole rent including water and membership will be £9.70 from April 1st. We won't know the actual water bill until the leases have been signed and water accounts are transferred over to Thames Water and whilst it has been extremely difficult to get any proper information out of Barnet on this we have had to make a guess at what the water bills will be. We may have to adjust next year's bills accordingly if we have misjudged! Remember our water is metred so be sensible with it!!

You will have noted that you received a new tenancy agreement with your rent letter which is important that you sign it and have it witnessed and bring with you when you pay your rent. Because of this, this year you can only pay your rent in the Trading Hut. We will open extra hours to accommodate this. If any of the information is incorrect on your agreement please let David Feldman know immediately so that it can be amended for you.

We need more people to get involved. Even just a little bit as we don't want people to feel pressurised but really this will only work if more people help with various things – cutting the grass, hedges, working in small groups for certain jobs.

We will be trying to finish the Trading hut this year.

We have a waiting list of 30 people waiting for plots.

- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Sadly not a good year, overall profit down. Reasons for this: i) nobody's fault, sales down £800, probably due to the weather. The profits go back to keep the rents down. ii) there is a fund in existence which has been eaten up "trading hut fund". Money has been spent on the trading hut. iii) better system of rent collection. More people became 60 and this has lowered the revenue. In previous

years 75% of the rent went to Barnet Council, this year we will keep all the rent. It was proposed and seconded to adopt this Financial Report.

We have been advised by the Federation to keep a good lump of money in reserve for maintenance purposes. The Committee are planning careful planning regarding security and maintenance with a 10 year plan.

Mike Sherrington was thanked by the Chair for all that he has done.

The Treasurer's Report was agreed by meeting and signed by the Chair.

- 5. Constitution:** We are proposing to adopt the model Constitution recommended by the Federation which we can adjust as and when we need to. A copy will be kept in the hut and an electronic version will be available if requested through the Chair.

It was proposed in principle to adopt the Constitution and Graham Edlin proposed and Ken Brown seconded.

- 6. Election of Committee Officers and Auditor:** Mike Sherrington has given notice that he will stand down. Brian Alcock from Tretawn Gardens agreed to come on the Committee. The Committee wanted to talk about the role of Treasurer and possibly split the roles. With the site self-managing there will be more to deal with. This will be done at the next Committee meeting. There was a majority vote for the committee members and Officers to serve another term. There were no other nominations for any of the existing posts held. However we wanted an Assistant Trading Hut Secretary and a Site Manager, both new officer ships.

Assistant Trading Hut Secretary: nominated Ken Brown

Proposed by J Balcombe and seconded by D Feldman

Site Manager: nominated Nick Jackson in his absence but prior agreement.

Proposed by S Berry and seconded by S Bell

Graham Edlin voted on as a new Committee member.

Auditor: Mr Pasher – plotholder – our current auditor.

Proposed by K Brown and seconded by D Raeburn that he remain the auditor for the next financial year.

7. AOB :

We have been assured by Barnet Council that the taps and pipes that have been stolen will be replaced by Barnet prior to turning the water back on in April.

Most of the fencing will become our responsibility when we are self-managing – grants are available and we need to look at this. Non committee members are very welcome to help with fundraising and grants if they would like to – don't need to join the committee to help!

All are welcome to come and join us for the barbeque this year – it is good to build a sense of community. No horsemeat this year.

The Electricity Substation on the Hendon Way site is being rebuilt. There is permission for 3 cars to park. The workmen are more than happy and have helped remove excess waste. Their security cameras are facing our gate. Two of their padlocks have been stolen. There will be lots of fencing available when they have finished.

We would like to have a plot clearing day, hire a skip, which will be supervised.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.