

**BEAUCHAMP ROAD AND GREEN LANE ALLOTMENT
ASSOCIATION – AGM Wednesday 25 November,2020
On-line**

AGENDA

Present

Ann Bailey, Ron Bailey, Jane Poole, Jeremy Schomberg, Douglas Watson, John Parker-Jones, Linda Thomas, Victoria Moore, Sarah Cheshire, Lucy Edington, Dieter and Elaine Klander (34N), Erica and Andy Nunn (21S), Sandra Taylor (14N), Rob Devenport (77S), Richard Farmiloe (56S), Edite Ruse (34S), Elena Brodetsky (53S), Rob and Sharon Gathercole (33N and S), Anthony Barnes (100S), Lucy Batten (84N)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Good evening and Welcome to you all.

Beauchamp Road and Green Lane Allotment are the only allotment in Elmbridge to have held their AGM online, all other allotments have cancelled their AGMS

Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

2. Adoption of the Minutes from the last AGM

The Minutes were adopted by a show of hands.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the last AGM

4. Chairman's Report

As I write we are at the beginning of our second Lockdown in England. I am sure that every plot holder on our site feels exceedingly fortunate that they have an allotment. When Michael Gove announced at the beginning of the first Lockdown that it was permissible to go to an allotment if you had one, I am sure there were many, like me, who gave a whoop of joy! It has meant fresh air, exercise, distanced companionship and the added benefit of some amazing crops this year. Never has our site look so well-tended and productive. Well done to you all, let's keep it up..

COVID 19

Will you all please continue to observe the rules that are in place for your safety and that of other plot holders. The toilets will remain closed for the foreseeable future for health and safety reasons. The rules are on our website www.beauchampallotments.co.uk and that of the National Allotment Society for your reference.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

All good things come to an end! Duncan Toms our Membership Secretary has relocated with his family for business reasons to Sussex. Our sincere thanks to Duncan for his hard work in this role and we wish him all the very best for the future. Victoria Moore who has created our wonderful Web site and maintained our Facebook Page and all things IT is also moving to pastures new shortly and leaving the Committee and last but by no means least our longest serving Committee Member Jane Poole is also standing down. Thank you all very much indeed for all your support and endeavours on behalf of BRGL.

However, the good news is that Lucy Edington has joined us both as a new plot holder and as Membership Secretary and another new plot holder Sarah Cheshire is kindly taking over Victoria's role. I am sure you will see them both around on site and feel free to send any contributions for Facebook to Sarah via our email address:

beauchampallotments@yahoo.co.uk

The rest of the Committee have all agreed to continue in their roles. You will be able to vote at the AGM on Zoom as you would normally.

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| Ann Bailey | Chair |
| John Parker-Jones | Secretary |
| Douglas Watson | Treasurer |
| Linda Thomas | Minute Secretary |
| Jeremy Schomberg | |
| Ron Bailey | |

If anyone would like to join us on the Committee, do please send us an email and we will let you know what is involved. You would be very welcome.

Douglas Watson has kept our financial affairs, as always, in good order and he will provide a separate report. Invoices will be sent out as normal for plot renewals and we ask you please to pay promptly and not have to be chased for payment. In these COVID times your plot is a great asset to you.

John Parker-Jones our Secretary has done sterling work and worked hard with Duncan and Douglas to keep our membership to capacity and showing new potential plot holders around. John has also undertaken the plot reviews with me and dealt with all the various issues that arise from these. If you have difficulty in maintaining your plot for any reason do, please let us know. You will receive help wherever possible. We continue to receive requests for plots and currently have a long waiting list. Our site is full with no vacancies. If you are unable to maintain your plot to the required standards, please let us know so that we can re-let it.

Jeremy Schomberg has kept us supplied with manure from Richmond Park. Currently there is a halt in supply as our trailer, after working hard these past few years needs some TLC and a service. Supplies may need to be halted as the Park are no longer able to make deliveries and we are working on a possible solution to this problem once the trailer is back in use.

Richard Farmiloe, together with Andy Nunn have dealt with our numerous water supply issues. Some tanks have their new covers on them, kindly made for us by Richard. Treat them with care and replace them when you have used the water tanks. A reminder please do not wash tools or produce in the tanks - it

blocks the pipes and fouls the water. Also, in these difficult times - do not wash your hands in the tanks. Use a bucket for both tasks. Richard will be turning all the water off before the frosts as usual. Thank you both for all you have done this year to maintain our water supplies.

BONFIRES

Please remember that there is clear signage on site, and everyone has received a copy of the strict rules we have concerning bonfires. If Elmbridge receives further complaints, we may be banned from having ANY bonfires in the future. If it is windy - NO bonfire - if items for burning are wet or green - they will smoke - NO bonfire. If in doubt - NO bonfire please. Thoughtless action will impact on all plot holders. If you are asked by a member of the Committee to put a bonfire out - please do so.

PUMPKIN PARTY

We held it! In spite of COVID and the damp miserable day we held the judging for the Pumpkins. A wonderful turnout. Thank you to Philip Finch and Victoria for undertaking the judging. To Jeremy for providing some shelter and importantly to those of you who entered. The winners Rob and Sharon whose pumpkin measured 1588mm. In second place Erica and Andy with a pumpkin measuring 1415mm and in third place Elsie with 1369mm. Well done to everyone who competed. Here's to next year's competition and even bigger pumpkins. Thank you to Victoria for sourcing our pumpkin seeds and also for helping Douglas and Elsie pack and post them to all plot holders.

SKIPS

We have had several skips on site this year which have always been filled to capacity. We will continue with this practice and signage will go up on the noticeboards, our web site and Facebook to alert plot holders of the dates in the New Year. Keep a look out.

PLOT THEFTS

Disappointingly there has been a spate of produce thefts from some plots. This is of concern to us all and makes everyone feel uncomfortable and somewhat suspicious. If you see anyone you

do not recognise wandering around the site please do challenge them. Ask them if they have a plot and what the number is. If you are not convinced by the response ask them to leave the site and report it to us please.

EMGS Trading Hut

The Trading Hut will remain open until 6 December and re-open at the end of January 2021. They have done a splendid job to ensure that we can all get supplies, whilst maintaining the necessary distancing and COVID safety measures. We appreciate their co-operation and on-going service.

And Finally.... Please remember to lock the gate as you enter and leave the site.

It remains for me to hope that you all remain fit and well and I look forward to seeing you on my computer screen via Zoom for our first, and I hope last, virtual AGM.

I would like thank Martin and Sandra for producing the signs for the allotment and also Richard Farmiloe and Andy Nunn who between them have sorted out any water related problems that have arisen.

Many thanks to you all.

Kind regards

ANN BAILEY

5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts

We now have the Treasurer's Report and Adoption of the Accounts so I will hand over to Douglas Watson our Treasurer to give his report.

Thank you Doug.

The accounts were adopted by a show of hands.

Treasurers Report
Financial Year to 31 October 2020

Good evening, I trust you all have access to a copy of the Summary Accounts.

The plot rental and subscription revenue remain healthy and reflects our strong membership. In terms of the annual results, the rents amounted to almost £4,400 and the membership subscriptions came to just over £1,800. I will take this opportunity to remind members that being a paid-up Member is a prerequisite for having a plot as we are a membership-based Association.

I would also like to remind members that when paying the rents that prompt payment is appreciated. The experiment with online banking has been a great success with 109 payments made online, equivalent to more than three quarters of our Members.

Total expenditure was just under £5,000. The key area of expenditure this year was maintenance at £1,300 and water £1,000 which amounted to almost half of our expenditure (47%). Another high expenditure area this year was skips, with almost £1,000 spent. This latter item is due to a small number of Members quitting the Association and leaving us with huge amounts of rubbish.

The Association is maintaining a reasonable reserve balance of £15,500.

We reviewed increasing rents broadly in line with inflation for next year. Indexing rents was voted and agreed at the AGM 7 years ago, however, we are maintaining the rents at the same level for next year. Particularly as the allotment's capital base remains reasonable.

Finally, the committee would like to thank Trevor Marshall for once again for Auditing and approving the books.

Thank you.

Douglas Watson

6. The next item of the Agenda is the Membership Report.

AGM Membership Update 2020

It has been a pleasure to have once again had the opportunity to be the membership secretary of the association and I would like to take the time to say a big thankyou to all the new plot-holders who I have had the chance to meet this year, as well as some of the current members that I have met for the first time during the 2020 season. It would also be remiss of me not to take the time to thank Ann and the other members of the committee for their time and help over this year.

It was with a heavy heart that due to work commitments I had to resign from the committee in October 2020, I have really enjoyed not only being a plot holder, but also to have had the chance to work with the other members of the committee, they do a great job keeping the allotment running.

We started off the 2020 season with a healthy waiting list of 19 people, these had been added on during 2019 following another successful marketing campaign on social media. We also had 4 plots free at the beginning of the year so that we could start off the process of getting new members onto plots as soon as the spring arrived.

I am pleased to say that during the spring and summer we managed to sign up 16 new members onto spare plots. This meant that we cleared our spare plot list!

Due to the Covid outbreak we had an immense number of applications for the allotment plots, as people sought to grow their own having more time on their hands. During the summer we had a waiting list with up to 35 people waiting and unfortunately no available plots.

We now have a healthy waiting list of 32 people, and recently we have had 3 plots become available to show.

So, in summary given these highly unusual times, we have had a very productive year, with some new great plot holders.

Duncan Toms
Membership Secretary (resigned October 2020)

As you will have seen from my Newsletter - Duncan has now left us and moved with his family to Sussex. I should like to record our thanks to him. His report has been circulated to you all.

Lucy Edington has taken over the helm from Duncan - I don't know if you have anything that you would like to add at this stage Lucy? Does anyone have any questions?

Also standing down as reported, are Victoria Moore and also Jane Poole - who has been on the Committee for more than 20 years. Thank you both very much and we wish you well - and look forward to seeing you down on site in the future.

Lucy Edington gave an update to Duncan's report that all vacant plot had now been filled and that there were 37 on the waiting list.

Ann Bailey explained that all allotment sites in Elmbridge had high numbers on their waiting lists and a number of them had closed their lists.

7. We now come to the election of Committee Members.

Those members of the Committee who are up for re-election and thankfully prepared to stand again are:-

Douglas Watson our Treasurer - who does an excellent job of keeping our finances in order for us.

Linda Thomas - who efficiently and bravely takes Minutes at all our meetings- including this AGM.

Jeremy Schomberg - who keeps our lanes and car park clean and tidy. Organises our manure delivery, services our trailer etc. etc. and is generally a huge asset to us.

Two new Committee Members to welcome - both of whom are new plot holders too.

Sarah Cheshire - who is taking over our Facebook and Website entries and maintenance.

Lucy Edington - who as I have mentioned is taking over from Duncan as our Membership Secretary - no small task.

If no one has any objections may I have a show of hands to vote in all these members onto the Committee for 2021/2022.

Any objections

There were no objections and there was a show of hands to vote in all the Committee members.

9. Any Other Business

Elaine Klander thanked the Committee for their hard work. She said that they had been unable to keep their plot maintained due to the unkempt adjacent plots. She said that they contacted the Committee via the website and offered to pay for Mypex to cover the plot but received no response. Ann Bailey said that she had spoken to Elaine at length regarding this matter and she did not feel an email response was required as well. Elaine also thought that there should be an option to pay for the paths to be cut. This would be something for individual plot holders to sort out themselves. Ann explained that plot 34N had now been cleared by the Committee requiring an eight yard skip which the site funded. The new plot holders for one half of plot 34 had been ill with COVID and were recovering. The new plot holder of the other half of plot 34 (Vlad) had asked for and been given permission to pay for his own skip to enable him to clear his new half. AB stated that she felt new plot holders must be given reasonable time to sort out newly acquired plots.

Lucy Edington and John Parker-Jones monitor the BRGL website.

Ann Bailey and John Parker-Jones will be carrying out plot reviews in February.

Elena Brodetsky suggested that surplus produce could be jointly collected and given to a food bank. She would be willing to put a box on the allotment and collect it to take to the food bank. Erica Nunn said that a house in Beauchamp Road had contacted the allotment about collecting surplus for the food bank. Vicky Moore said that Vine Hall had put on their Facebook page that they take surplus produce to the food bank. Sarah Cheshire will put this information on Facebook at the start of the growing season next year.

Douglas Watson said that as there had been a spate of thefts of produce etc on the allotment it might be an idea for members to carry the slip of paper on renewal form as identification if challenged. It was agreed that the paper form would probably not last long and members could always show their allotment key.

Andy Nunn requested an update on manure deliveries. Jeremy Schomberg explained that the trailer was being serviced and would probably be finished in approximately the next 7-10 days when reduced deliveries would start. This information is included in the Chairman's Report.

Ann Bailey thanked Jeremy Schomberg, Douglas Watson, John Parker-Jones, Ron Bailey and Philip, Vicky Moore's partner who repaired the road way and with the scalping that Jeremy supplied.

Sandra Taylor thanked Ann Bailey for all her hard work heading up the Committee.

The AGM closed at 8.31