

**MINUTES OF BEAUCHAMP ROAD AND GREEN LANE
ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION – AGM Wednesday 14
November,2018**

Present

Ann Bailey, Ron Bailey, Jane Poole, Bob Poole, Jeremy Schomberg, Duncan Toms, Douglas Watson, Elsie Shaughnessey, Linda Thomas, A. Barnes, Andrew Gee, Sally Dickinson, Richard Farmiloe, Ken McCartney, Adrian Wilkins, Robert Welland, Erica Nunn, Andy Nunn, Bill Gotch.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Good evening and Welcome to you all.

Having stood down as the Chairman I find myself here again and about to serve a 6th year – however this would not have been possible without the wonderful support of the Committee who I should like to thank most sincerely and now introduce.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Sandra Taylor, Keith Davies and Trevor Marshall.

2. Adoption of the Minutes from the last AGM

There was a show of hands and the Minutes of 2017 were adopted unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

LETTER from the Chairman 2018

It is my pleasure, yet again as Chairman, to write and invite all members to attend our 2018 AGM which is taking place on **Wednesday 14 November at 7.30 p.m.** This year it will be held in the Hall at **St. Lawrence C of E Junior School in Church Road, East Molesey, KT8 9DR.** I hope as many members as possible will make the time to attend to support the Committee and air their views and also to lend their support. Following the AGM we will again be serving refreshments to give members the opportunity to chat with other plot holders and committee members. We have a lot of new plot holders and we very much hope they will join us.

I should like to thank all members of the Committee for their hard work, time and commitment to the Association and to me again as Chairman. Contributions from all plot holders are welcomed and if you feel you would like to join the Committee and lend a hand to help in the running and maintenance of our site it would be much appreciated. Without the valuable work of our dedicated Committee we would not be able to maintain our site for everyone's benefit.

We have had two skips on site this year – well used by members and every nook and cranny filled. We will continue with this practice and signage will go up on the notice boards and web site and Facebook to alert plot holders of the dates in the New Year. Keep a look out.

Following last years AGM Duncan Toms came forward and offered to take over the role of Secretary and Membership Secretary. He has been an invaluable member of the Committee and done a brilliant job in taking over from Tina.

Douglas Watson has, again kept our finances in good order and he will report fully at the AGM. Thanks are due again to Jane Poole for keeping our toilet clean – please help by leaving it, as you would wish to find it!! Sincere thanks to

Jane. A reminder do not flush the blue hand towel down the toilet – it blocks the system, which results in temporary closure. Victoria keeps our Facebook Page, web site and noticeboard humorously up to date. Join in and let us have your feedback. Linda Thomas takes our Minutes – perfectly and also at the AGM this year. Thank you all for your invaluable contributions.

A chance meeting I had in Richmond Park resulted in a new source of manure for our site. However, we had to arrange for transportation. This was resolved when the Committee decided to invest in the purchase of a trailer. Jeremy Schomberg, another new and invaluable member of the Committee stepped in. Did the research and went off to purchase the trailer down in Hampshire. This is now filled and delivered twice a week – usually Tuesday and Friday directly from the Shire Horse stables in Richmond Park. I think all plot holders are appreciative of this new and constant supply. Thank you Jeremy for all the time that you have spent in overseeing this schedule, and particularly for manually unloading the deliveries very early in the morning and finally for the repairs that you have recently undertaken to the trailer along with Rob Welland.

Thanks are due as always to Richard Farmiloe, who whilst not a Committee members is a great support and help turning our water off, before the frosts and back on again in the Spring and deals with our leaks and repairs. He is also creating new more robust water tank covers for us – which we hope to have in place before too long. A reminder – do not wash vegetables in the tanks – it blocks the pipework. Use a bucket or the tap.

Dare I mention the weather! January started mild then Storm Eleanor arrived. February unsettled with some snow. March, cold easterly winds – The Beast from the East and then it was wet, followed by more cold winds. April – cold and wet – low temperatures – then a brief hot spell with record temperatures. When to plant and what – given that the ground was still cold and hard. May started unsettled, then warmer and sunnier. June saw temperatures into 30's. No rain. July – summed up – hot –

very hot. August – still hot. September – fine and warm – little rain. Winter forecast – unsettled with wide spread frosts. How did we grow anything this year? Bumper crops of strawberries for some plot holders, others lost their plants in the cold winds. Amazing sweetcorn for some – none for others. Runner beans – died before bearing crops. Courgettes thrived. Blackberries, currants ripened weeks early. I think we all spent many, many hours watering in the hot spells in the hope of rescuing as much as we could. As we always say – there's always next year!! Keep digging.

Bonfires have created some serious problems this past year with Elmbridge Borough Council Environment Department writing to us on this matter, and enclosing photographs of offending bonfires and letters from residents. There is clear signage on site and everyone has received a copy of the very strict rules we have concerning bonfires – details are also on the noticeboard. 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 still green – they will smoke – no bonfire. If in doubt – no bonfire please. Thoughtless action will impact on all plot holders.

I should like to add that if a member of the Committee ask you to put a bonfire out – please do so. Abuse and rudeness at this request is not acceptable and you will risk having your plot lease terminated. Fair warning!

Our Pumpkin Party on 14 October – despite the rain, was a great success and well supported. Thank you to Philip Finch for his expert judging. Thanks to Sandra and Martin Taylor and Richard Farmiloe for helping on the day, together with Vicky, Ron, Douglas and Elsie, Jane and Rob. A new record for the winning pumpkin 195 cm. Congratulations to Jan Braszkowski. Second Place to Clive Olney – 159.8 cm and in Third Place – Sandra Taylor with 135.5 cm. Well done to everyone who competed and joined in the fun on the day. Thank you to Keith Davies for sourcing our pumpkin seeds and Vicki, Douglas and Elsie for packing and posting them to all plot holders.

The roadways will again be closed when the water is turned off to protect the lanes from damage. They will be re-opened when the water is turned back on in early Spring.

Finally, there are notices on the footpaths asking you all to keep your paths strimmed and mown and also keep your trees cut back so that no one damages themselves and they do not overhang pathways.

The reviewing system has continued to be implemented and reviews will commence again early in the New Year.
As I have already said please pay particular attention to paths and trees.

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.

Treasurers Report **Financial Year to 31 October 2018**

Good evening, I trust you all have access to a copy of the Summary Accounts. The plot rental and subscription revenue remains healthy and reflects our strong membership. I will take this opportunity to remind members that the subscription 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, as we are all volunteers having to chase people for their rents is a costly and time consuming which I for one could do with-out (it took over six months to collect all the subscriptions this year). However, this year is first year that I have received all dues by now.

The key area of expenditure this year has been maintenance (21%). As always, we have made continuous investment in making sure that the allotment is up to scratch. We always have to be prepared for unannounced visits from our

Landlord. Also, as members change we have the task of ensuring plots are reasonably clear ready for new members. A major investment item this year has been the purchase of the trailer to ferry regular supplies of manure to the allotment. This has been a great success and the trailer remains a financial asset on our books.

This purchase has pushed us into financial annual deficit of just under two thousand pounds. For clarity the deficit is calculated from our revenues minus our costs for this financial year. Our capital base remains reasonable.

The BRGL sponsored the annual Pumpkin Party, the cost of which is included in the membership, and similarly to last year came to around five hundred pounds (including the seeds mailed to members).

We recovered the cost of one skip hire from the council this year.

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

We reviewed increasing rents broadly in line with inflation for next year. Indexing rents was voted and agreed at the AGM 5 years ago, however, we are maintaining the rents at the same level.

And one final thing I am investigating changing banks to enable online payments – watch this space.

Thank you.

6. Membership Report

With the resignation of Tina last year we had the good fortune that Duncan Toms – a relatively new plot holder came forward following the meeting and volunteered to take on the role of Secretary and Membership Secretary. Duncan has been a huge asset and support and a very efficient member of the Committee. Supporting myself and Douglas superbly well. Duncan over to you.

AGM Membership Update 2018

I inherited the position of membership secretary in December 2017 and with it the then waiting list which had 20 people

listed as waiting for new plots, and also 5 current members that were waiting for additional plots.

During the rest of the winter our waiting list then increased with interested plot holders enquiring to join the waiting list so that by March we had a total of 28 people on our waiting list and a total of 6 current plot holders waiting for adjacent plots.

Following 2 further reviews that were undertaken during April and May we identified that there were a total of 12 plots that were ready and empty for allocation to the waiting list. The plots that I then leased were 19S, 86N, 20S, 2S, 71N, 100N, 20N, 94N, 87N, 69S, 91S, 72N.

I am pleased to say that during the spring and summer I managed to let all 12 vacant plots and also identified a further 10 plots that could be leased following a further review, these were 103S, 54S, 86S, 88N, 42S, 51S, 52S, 71S, 33S & 99S. And as such I let 22 plots in total this year, also through various drop outs from the waiting list I was able to completely clear the waiting list by the end of June 2018. We then started to advertise for a new set of people to join our waiting list as we had 4 new plots that clearly had not been used for a number of years, following some mail to those plot holders we currently have 6 plots available to lease 59N, 85S, 86S, 95S, 96N and 103S and a new waiting list totalling 15 people.

We also have 4 current plot holders who are waiting for adjacent plots.

So in summary we have had a very productive year, with new plot holders joining us through the spring and summer, we managed to clear our old waiting list and now have a new and very healthy waiting list.

Duncan Toms
Secretary and Membership Secretary

7. Election of Committee Members.

Those members of the Committee who are up for – re-election and thankfully prepared to stand again are:-
Firstly Jeremy Schomberg and Duncan Toms who both volunteered following last years AGM and have done sterling work this past year and thank you together with Douglas Watson our very efficient Treasurer and Victoria Moore who looks after our Facebook, Web Site and notice board, Jane Pole who is our Liaison Officer

If no one has any objections may I have a show of hands to vote in all these members onto the Committee for 2019/2020.

They were voted in by a unanimous show of hands.

9. Any Other Business

Whilst I have not received any notification for any issues – is there anything that anyone would like to raise – before I close the meeting and invite you all to some refreshments.

Richard Farmiloe asked why the plot renewal could not be earlier in the year as any plots given up and reallocated would give the new plot holders more time for planting.

Ken McCartney explained it was moved to March as the renewal notices previously ran into the Christmas period when finances would be tight.

Douglas Watson was not happy to move the date back to January as the renewal notice would be received before Christmas for the same reason as above. As a compromise, the renewals could be sent out in February to be paid in March/April/May and if not paid the plot to be forfeited.

Andrew Gee said that a notice board recommending varieties of plants, seeds etc would be beneficial. Vicky Moore suggested that this could perhaps be incorporated on the Facebook page/website. Erica Nunn agreed.

Andy Nunn asked if it was possible to put a sign on the toilet door to show it was occupied. One suggestion was to leave the keys in the door to show it was use.

Erica Nunn asked about the proposed keeping of bees as outlined in the 2017 AGM. Ann Bailey explained that although one plot holder had taken the course it was more complex than originally thought, especially the positioning of the hives.

In the light of this, Keith Davies had sent an email suggesting that plot holders should be encouraged to plant lavender to attract bees.

Andy Nunn thought that lavender could be planted on the wildlife plot, but this plot is for wild flowers and plants.

The AGM closed at 8.30 pm when refreshments were served.