

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE POVEREST ALLOTMENT LIMITED HELD ON SATURDAY 6 August 2022 AT 10.30 OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY SHED

Committee present: Bill Whatley, Chairman; John O'Connell, Treasurer; Sam Whatley, Membership Secretary; Bob Vine; Denis McCarthy; Graham Garnett

Plotolders present: Anne Robarts, Dhirij Aubeelack x2, Mr & Mrs Savidge x2, R J Brook, Rane Ranasinghe, Padma Ranasinghe, Brian Harris, Rob Winkley, Jamie White, B Black, Gail Black, Derek Fry, Sean Geraghty, Paul Greenslade, Julie Groves, Barabra Czech, James Wall, Nadzie Mestan, Amrit Jhass, Natalia Heritage

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 August 2021, were approved as an accurate record of the meeting, with no matters arising.

1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman welcomed all and reminded us that between us all we've made positive progress since last years meeting with several projects being completed including new front gates, resurfaced road, gents toilets refurbished, painting and sign posting the water troughs to name a few. He thanked the plotholders who joined forces with the committee on the working party days to get these projects completed, as well as the committee members themselves for their time and efforts.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer advised that our accounts are in good order and a full set which have been independently audited by Rob Winkley, are available on our website and have been filed with Companies House as required.

3. ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS

The meeting unanimously adopted the accounts.

4. INSURANCE

The allotment insurance was confirmed for another year.

5. PROPOSED CHANGES TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Membership Secretary proposed a 3 year consecutive weed letter would result in a 30 day notice of termination of tenancy due to the number of consistent plot holders regularly receiving weed letters each year and just clearing their plot only to leave it again until they get another and not actually growing anything. The meeting unanimously approved but for shorter – 2 years.

Currently no dogs are allowed on site, but after a vote, it was agreed that dogs are now allowed on site but always on a lead and under control.

New terms and conditions will be drawn up to reflect these changes and will be emailed out to all plot holders, put on the website and noticeboard.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

The Chairman indicated his and the Committee's willingness to continue in post and advised that Derek Fry will be stepping down from the committee. He and everyone thanked Derek for all his dedication, work, and time given to the allotments and committee over the years.

In his absence, Rob Winkley was proposed and seconded as a new member of the committee. However, as Rob also audits the accounts, the Treasurer will look into any conflict of interest to make sure this is okay.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The issue of unattended children playing and running about on other people's plots was raised, with incidents of children using others plot holders produce as 'drums', loud shouting and riding pedal bikes around. The Membership Secretary reminded everyone attending that this behaviour is not acceptable and it will be added to the next newsletter to remind parents to keep their children on their own plots, riding of bikes is not permitted and if possible, for plot holders to let the Committee know who these families are so they can address them directly.

The use of hoses, in particular being used to fill water butts or tanks directly from the communal water troughs was raised. The terms and conditions currently state no hose pipes are allowed, however, after some interesting information given on trickle/drip water irrigation systems, it was agreed that these would be allowed on a trial basis and that tanks or butts that feed these systems can be filled from the communal water troughs, however, the terms and conditions still stand, in that you cannot fill these tanks or butts directly via a hose or pump system from the communal troughs – only by watering cans or buckets.

Last year a one-off levy of £20 per tyre on plots was introduced but to date nobody with tyres has paid plus the Committee has not actively pursued. Tyres are not permitted as we are unable to dispose of them without being charged by a specialist removal company. Therefore, it was proposed that the one-off levy for each tyre on plots will now be added to next years allotment rent for each plot holder concerned.

The issue of rubbish being dumped in communal areas, especially at the top perimeter fence was raised by Bob Vine, Committee member. He requested everyone's help in stopping this, as well as all the other issues around dogs on leads, children playing on other plots etc. stating that the committee need everyone's help in stopping these things as it is very difficult for the committee to take action on their own and as a community we can gradually stop it all together.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 7th August 2023, 10.30am