

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 @ 7.15pm**

at

**St. Mary's Hall, Bell Lane, East Molesey**

## Minutes

### **Members Present: 21**

1. Ann Bailey welcomed those present and thanked them for coming

### **2. Apologies for Absence:**

James Moore 62N, Sandra Maitland 16S, Peter & Sandra Norgate 105N,  
Tony Rachwal 18S, Trevor Marshall 74, Douglas Watson 57/58N ,  
Jeremy Schomberg 103

### **3. Adoption of Minutes:**

The Minutes of AGM 2013 had been displayed on site and on the Association website prior to the AGM. They were also sent out to all members by post, one month prior to the AGM, with Chairman's report. These were proposed for approval by Richard Farmiloe, seconded for approval by David Sleep and thus were adopted as a true account of the 2013 AGM.

### **4. Matters Arising:**

None

### **5. Chairman's Report:**

Ann had sent her report out with the invitation to attend the AGM:-

I have the pleasure, as Chair this year, to write and invite all members to attend our 2014 AGM, which is taking place on Monday 10 November at St Mary's Church Hall.

I hope as many as possible will find the time to join us. Your views are important to the on-going success of the Association.

I should like to thank all members of the Committee for their time and commitment. Special thanks go to Pam Sickelmore for her continued hard work, in particular for maintaining our 100% occupancy. I hope we can keep this up.

The regular reviews of plots are essential in maintaining our standards. It is often unpopular, but a necessity and conducted fairly by John Bavin. These reviews will become more critical with the renewal of our lease coming up early next year. Maintaining tidy and well-tended plots will be increasingly important. Thank you John.

Peter Rendall has kept our finances in order, essential for any organisation. Ian Whitehorn has made a splendid job of making new covers for all the water tanks this year. Finally, Richard Farmiloe, whilst not a member of the Committee, has again dealt with all our water issues for us and warrants a huge thank you. Without him we should have to pay a plumber to come and do the work. Thank you to you all.

Every year has its highs and lows with the English weather and this past year has been no exception. It started with high winds and heavy rains making plot preparation very heavy going. When the fine weather arrived it was very hot indeed, sometimes too hot to work – just water. Some crops have been excellent whereas others have disappointed. I suspect this will always be the case but we all keep trying and doing our best.

We have supplied skips twice this year so far which have proved to be welcomed by plot holders who have managed to clear unwanted bulky items from their plots. The Committee will keep this under review and hopefully we shall be able to fund further skips. The funding for the skips has been possible because Pam and Jane Poole have assisted me in undertaking the cleaning of the toilets instead of us paying for this to be done. Thank you both very much. Not the most glamorous of tasks!!

I am sure you will have noticed the new larger notice boards and also one for plot holders to use to advertise for tools and equipment or items they may wish to sell. I am pleased to see all three boards are being put to good use.

The roadways had to be closed due to the heavy rain and damage being done by vehicles. In future it has been decided to close the roadways at the same time as the water is turned off for the winter months. They will be reopened again when the water is turned back on at the beginning of the season.

Very disappointingly we have had a spate of tools, equipment and produce being stolen from plots. It is very unpleasant and creates an uncomfortable atmosphere for everyone. In addition new toilet rolls are regularly removed. By highlighting these unpleasant issues I hope they cease for everyone's benefit.

The Committee recently took the decision to join our Association, as a Group, to Surrey Wildlife Trust who came and surveyed the site. We were complimented, not only on the very lovely site that we have and on the wildlife found. This is something that we wish to expand on in the year ahead by creating a wildlife area on plots 64/65A. We hope this will stand us in good stead for any potential future development of the site. Those of you who would be prepared to lend a hand to enhance the area in question would be most welcome. Please let a member of the Committee know and we will keep you informed of the timetable on the project.

**ANN BAILEY**

#### **6. Treasurer's Report: *See attached Accounts.***

Peter reported on items such as:

- Income was up this year by £2,000. He said this was due to the fact that we had received estimated water bills for some time. The meters had now been read and we had received a £600 rebate.
- There had been no BBQ this year
- We had saved some £400 this year in toilet cleaning as Ann, Pam and Jane had volunteered to do this.
- Sundries were higher. This had included the 2 skips we had had on site, one of which had been funded by the Council

Peter told the meeting that the Association possessed shares in Santander. However they were not increasing in value and he proposed that we sell them. This was seconded by Kerry Morgan with unanimous agreement from the floor.

Peter also told the meeting that the committee had looked at the proposed additional Machine Shed (see AGM 2013) in great detail but they could find no justification for such significant expenditure, which would have come to over £10,000 leaving little to keep in reserve against unforeseen disasters. Peter told the meeting that the committee had cleared the existing shed. There was now a register and some space left. He said that all requests should go through Pam.

Peter reported that the accounts had been signed off and thanked Trevor Marshall for his continued efforts. Peter finally asked that all members pay for their renewals promptly by the end of March. He said it had taken a full 4 months to collect all the rents and this was not an effective use of his time. He also asked for members to note that cheques should be made out to **Beauchamp Road Allotment Association**

Peter asked for someone to second his proposal that the accounts be accepted. Kerry Morgan seconded.

#### **7. Secretary/Membership Report:**

Pam reported that the new committee did a Site Walk in January '14. This was to enable the whole committee to get a feel of the site; where problem areas were and what needed attention in the coming year. Various items were noted including the poor state of some parts of the perimeter fence and a generally low standard in the southeast quadrant. This saw a moving of 19 plots to new members and by March there was no Waiting List for immediate plots. Pam therefore asked Elmbridge to put 'plots vacant' on the Association part of the Elmbridge website. This has ensured a steady flow of those wishing to rent a plot. By October a further 19 plots had been let, making 38 from January to October. 14 of that 38 were let to existing plot holders. At the time of writing this report there are 3 on the waiting list for immediate plots and 3 existing plot holders that want more land.

We have 1 whole plot vacant - this needs clearing.

Pam went on to report that the reviewing system had worked well this year. John Bavin and another member of the committee had done 2 monthly reviews with follow up reviews one month after. John had also asked to have his name and contact details on letters that went out so plot holders could make an appointment and meet John on site to discuss any issues. Pam thanked John for his efforts as it made the

whole review system more effective and manageable. Pam told the meeting that we had also added the 'level' of '**Monitoring**' to the Review Rationale, which is given to all new plot holders in their Starter Pack and appears thus:

**Monitoring** – *when plot causes some concern, poor path maintenance or plot needs to be monitored due to some deterioration. Email sent to inform plot holder*

**L1** – *allotment is new allocation in poor state – committee will monitor and guide*

**L2** – *not up to usual/required standard – weed growth that is beginning to impact on others; paths in poor state; enquiry letter to be sent to see if there is a reason and offering support.*

**L3** – *Letter giving time allocation for improvement needed to meet standard as specified in Tenancy Agreement and Rules*

**L4** – *Notice given of termination of Lease.*

Pam told the meeting that as from January 2014 all new plot holders had paid a refundable deposit of £25 (See AGM 2013). This features in the agreement signed when taking over a plot and is refundable if plot is left in good condition when plot holder leaves Association. The Committee had used some of this money to clear plots in the southeast quadrant as they had been left very neglected. There is one plot left to clear.

Pam reminded members that plots belong to individuals for the period of their tenure. Etiquette requires us not walk across other peoples' plots or go on to plots to look. There had been several complaints directed toward some members who do not seem aware of this. She said that this is one of the reasons why we need to keep all paths in good condition.

The bonfire summer ban had been successful for a second year but Pam asked members to wait for dry weather and refrain from lighting damp material or having bonfires in the rain. Both create a lot of smoke and while we have had no communication from households or the Council, Pam had received numerous complaints from plot holders who have not appreciated smoke blowing over them from neighbouring plots. 'Do's and Don'ts of bonfires are on the website and in the Starter Pack.

Finally Pam thanked the committee for their support over the past year as she had found both Membership and Secretary roles arduous. This was due to the demands of a growing granddaughter and an increased workload. It was for those reasons that she was giving up the role of Secretary but would gladly keep on Membership if that was the wish of members. Jane Poole and Ann Bailey would undertake the Secretarial elements.

## **8. Committee Elections:**

Ann Bailey said that three members of the committee were standing down – Bruce Fenn, Kerry Morgan and Dave Nottage. She thanked them for their contribution over the past year and wished them well in the future. She also said that three existing members of the committee were up for re-election. They were Pam Sickelmore, Jane Poole and John Bavin and they were all prepared to stand for re-election.

There were also proposals for two new members of the committee. Elections were as follows:

**Membership – Pam Sickelmore** was proposed by Ian Whitehorn and seconded by Ron Bailey. As there were no other nominations Pam was re-elected.

**Jane Poole - Liason** was proposed by Ron Bailey and seconded by Ian Whitehorn. As there were no other nominations Jane was re-elected.

**John Bavin - Reviews** was proposed by Pam Sickelmore and seconded by Jane Poole. As there were no other nominations John was re-elected.

**Committee –**

**Steve Plumbridge** was nominated by Pam Sickelmore and Ian Whitehorn and was elected to the committee.

**Victoria Moore** was nominated by Ann Bailey and seconded by Ron Bailey and was elected to the committee.

These were nominations received by the secretary prior to the AGM

The **BRGL Committee** is now:

- **Chairman – Ann Bailey** 28S
- **Treasurer – Peter Rendall** 48N
- **Membership – Pam Sickelmore** 14
- **Jane Poole – Liaison** 61
- **John Bavin - Reviews** 49
- **Douglas Watson** 57N
- **Ron Bailey** 28S
- **Ian Whitehorn** 32
- **Victoria Moore** 30
- **Steve Plumbridge** 83
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**AUDITOR** – Trevor Marshall, a local businessman, had kindly audited our accounts for a fifth year and would be happy to continue for the foreseeable future. Peter Rendall proposed that Trevor should be asked to continue and Pam Sickelmore seconded this. The AGM would like to thank Trevor for his contribution and hard work.

#### **A.O.B**

No AOB received

**Luke Beale** asked for clarification on a comment made by the chairman in her report with reference to the extra effort the association would have to put in to ensuring the site was kept in good condition in the run up to the lease renewal. Pam pointed out that the levelling system used in reviews would not be changed and the committee were committed to working to the same end – that of a well maintained site. Luke was given the Site Rationale from the Starter Pack.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.50pm