

SPEEN ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 2017 AGM

29th March 2017

Apologies: Aimee Ginsburg, Ray Russell.

Present: 4 committee members: - Alan Foley (Chair), Colin Mansell (Treasurer), Nicola Jenkins (Secretary) and Cliff Sells & 23 plot holders.

1. **2016 Minutes** were distributed to members with the agenda prior to AGM.

2. Updated SAA Rules

- Alan Foley highlighted the amendments to the Rules and Regulations, detailing the increase in plot rentals to £1.50 per pole from 1st January 2017 in order to help build the fund for forthcoming allotment development costs
- The Association has obtained Public Liability Insurance. A disclaimer is still need to absolve the Association for damages to sheds and equipment which is not included in the policy.
- Plot Holders attention was brought to the General Regulations, number 2 indicating the areas around plots must be kept tidy and the grass paths cut by the plot holder.
- Attention was brought to the addition of number 11 in General Regulations which state that bees are currently being kept on site.
- Members were reminded of the rules and regulations regarding bonfires on site and reiterated that they are not allowed between 1st May and 30th September.
- Water use is limited during hot weather and usage should be limited to before midday and after 6.00pm only
- The regulation regarding use of Association-owned equipment was highlighted.

3. Officers Reports

Chairman's report was read out by Alan Foley.

- It is our centenary year, having first rented from Suttons Estates in March 1917
- SSA membership is currently at 60 and we have had 3 new members this year.
- SAA membership donated produce to St Mary's Church Harvest Festival in September. The Association also gave its support to Speen Village Fete.
- The Chairman handed out an update of the proposed development of the site at the meeting and explained that the planning application was due to be submitted in April or early May. He reiterated that the entire site had up until this time last year been under threat but that Suttons had decided to withdraw their original application for the allotment site and resubmit their application to include just a pedestrian and cycle way over part of the allotments linking Station Road and the new development. The Chairman indicated that it was important that the Association had something in writing in case of future changes to those directly involved in the negotiations. The Chairman briefly explained the proposed impact on the allotment site and highlighted the loss of most of the plots in Row A due to the cycle/pedestrian path, but that land to compensate would be provided by Suttons Estates to the back of the current site, which would be cultivated, with plots and pathways prepared. Suttons Estates would replace any sheds that are lost due to the development and

also would replace the 6 fruit trees that will also be lost. Finally, if the water supply to the site was to cease or be adversely affected by the development, Suttons had agreed to install a link to the main water supply via a standpipe. The Chairman highlighted that if this became the case, the Association would be responsible for any consumption costs associated with the mains supply.

- The Chairman invited questions from the floor regarding the proposed development of the site – a comment was made by a member that a syphon and a tank to supply water may be needed as well. The Chairman indicated that this would be looked at, at the time if it was necessary. Cliff Sells commented that the syphon was already present at the top of the allotment site. Colin Mansell asked who would be responsible for the standing charges and the Chairman indicated that this still needed to be discussed with Sutton's estates. Another member asked whether the water consumption could be metered. The Chairman commented that it could, but this too was still to be discussed. He noted that all the questions raised had been valid, but that the level of detail had not been discussed yet.

Treasurer's Report: Report was read by Colin Mansell. A copy of the Association Accounts were handed out at the prior to the start of the meeting.

- The Treasurer highlighted that comparisons could not be made between this year's accounts and the previous year due to the move to a calendar year accounting period.
- Rents have been increased this year by 0.50p per pole, which are necessary as a contingency that might become necessary as a result of the proposed developments. As the Chairman explained there may still be unexpected costs so in the short – term a provision has been made.
- A small restricted reserve has been retained within the bank, which is the remainder of a grant that we were awarded 2 years ago. This money is ring-fenced for equipment renewals.
- Expenses appear on the high side due to a backlog of reimbursements
- The Treasurer commented that we are grateful for the ongoing support of the Speen Fete Committee who kindly donated £150.00 to the Association.

4. Prizes/ Competitions

1st Prize - best plot – Martin Wiltshire – C5

2nd prize - runner up – John Hole – B1

Best Newcomer – Irwin Fairclough – B2

Cliff Sells explained to the members that the decision had been made to scrap the prizes for the best sunflower and largest pumpkin and the money saved there had been used to increase the prizes for the cup holders.

5. Nomination and Election of Committee members

- There were no nominations to join the committee from the floor
- Committee members were re-elected en bloc

Chairman	Alan Foley
Treasurer	Colin Mansell
Secretary	Nicola Jenkins
Committee member	Cliff Sells

- Trish Moyle

Seconded by Mike Pearce

6. Volunteers to oversee water system and equipment

The chair asked for volunteers to help maintain the water system and on site equipment. Terry Allwood put his name forward for this role.

7. Centennial celebrations

The Chairman put forward a proposal to celebrate our centennial with a BBQ on site on the evening of 1st July 2017 and requested a show of hands to accept the proposal. Around half those that attended accepted the proposal.

8. AOB

Colin Mansell wished to make a comment to thank the Chair – Alan Foley for his continued efforts on the behalf of the association, to obtain a positive result regarding the new housing development and asked for a round of applause.

Meeting closed 19:35