

WEST END ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION (WEAA)

Minutes of AGM meeting: Wednesday 15th February 2023

Venue: West End Village Hall

- **Committee Members Present**

Mark Joshua (MJ, Chairman), Paul Gibson (PG, Treasurer), David Keen (DK, Secretary), Patrick Harpur and Bob Waller (BW).

Apologies for Absence: Alan & Claire Hitchcock, Anne & Ian Watts, Ciaran Gannon, Anne & Ian Watts and Richard & Irene Hobbs-Meyer

- **Matters arising from the AGM held 8th February 2022**

The minutes of the meeting were approved with no points arising

- **Treasurer's Report (covering year to 31 December 2022)**

Net profit for the year of £554.48 (2021 £440.90). Highlights-

- Rental income flat to 2021 at £2,266.81. PG commented that WEAA have one of the lowest rental charges at 17.5p per sq yard. It is proposed to increase this to 20p per sq yd going forward. This was agreed by the meeting.
- Seed Scheme generated a net income of £53.59 (income from members less payment to Kings) for the WEAA, double that of 2021
- Water charge represents an estimate of potential charge. This is still an outstanding item with the meter not being properly read by EBC. PG has now accrued £2,893 for any eventual bill that may arrive. In reality there is likely to be a negotiated figure but we are well provisioned

- We did not incur any costs for break ins and damages as we had in 2021 following the burglary of the container
- Site works & repairs (£411.45) covered renewing fencing, planting the edible hedge, various plumbing work and the purchase of the new signage at either end of the plots main path
- NAS membership £195. PG noted that this also included third party insurance for individuals in case of any accidents on site
- Balance Sheet- A healthy cash balance of £10,880.48 which includes money received for 2023 rentals.
- Overall there is an accumulated fund of £6,266.97

- **Chairman's Report**

MJ welcomed all members and summarised the previous growing year. It was marked by extremes of weather; from the major storms in February, through an extremely hot summer with a UK record temperature of over 40°C and a drought for most of the year. This impacted a number of our favourite crops such as salads and beans. Autumn brought milder weather and the year finished with torrential rains leaving many plots underwater.

Despite this the site was well maintained throughout the year and in particular the establishing of the edible hedge (specific thanks to Lynn Postle and Patrick Harpur for sourcing and planting) and work on repairing the water sources. Numerous work parties carried out a range of improvements and thanks to Christine and John Chadwick, Peter and Helen Spinney, Peter Nightingale, Debbie Harding, Richard Tomiak and the current committee members. All volunteering is extremely welcome and gratefully received

In terms of Shows we had great success at the Esher & Molesey Garden Society Flower Show in early August and significant wins for Lynn Postle, Paul Gibson and Bob Waller. The overall vegetable medley was won via a collection of veg from a number of plot holders. This inspired an equally impressive showing at our closer West End Flower show at the August bank holiday Fair. As ever Bob & Maggie Waller were very successful, along with good showings from Paul Gibson, David & Joyce Keen and Mark Bisson

Guy Fawkes night was marked in the traditional way with a large bonfire along with a magnificent BBQ laid on by Patrick and Annie Harpur

Finally, MJ announced that after 10 years he was stepping down as Chair and indeed, would be vacating the plot. The meeting voiced full appreciation for his efforts noting the significant improvement in engagement across the plot and there was formal thanks from the Floor for the work of both Mark and Caroline over the years

- **Election of Officers and Committee Members**

Following MJ's news he proposed Patrick Harpur as the new Chair, this was seconded from the floor and passed unanimously. At this point PH chaired the remainder of the meeting

Secretary -David Keen has served a 2 year term and is standing for re-election. Proposed from the Chair, seconded from the floor and passed unanimously

Additional Committee Member, Helen Spinney is proposed, to strengthen the existing structure— Proposed from the Chair, seconded from the floor and passed unanimously

The following officers are willing to serve a second year of their 2 year elected term

Committee Member – Bob Waller

Treasurer – Paul Gibson

- **The Bernie Carr Memorial Cup award**

The award this year was presented to Vic and Kate Carter. This reflects the many years of hard work that they have put into their plot (it being always immaculate) and the support and encouragement that they have given to other plot holders over the years. Vic has always been extremely supportive of WEAA and all of its members with helpful advice gained from years of experience. Well done Vic & Kate and many thanks from all the plot holders

- **Any Other Business**

A number of items arose:

1. Kings Seeds Scheme. PG said that a digital option would be available in future. This would involve PG registering members emails so that they could log in and order directly from the Kings special Associations Web Site which uses a digitised version of the catalogue and holds members discounted prices. It was noted that some people may still prefer the paper option, with catalogue, and this will still be available
2. Website. PG has set up a useful website. www.weallot.uk Clearly much merriment at the name !. The purpose is for it to become an active forum for engagement across all plot holders with sections covering growing tips, useful information, meeting minutes etc. There are also pages providing information about us and our procedures for allocating any vacant plots together with an application form for this purpose. As always these things are a work in progress but everyone is encouraged to have a look and where possible make contributions. PG hoped that it will be useful for everyone.

3. Waiting List. DK reporting that the list has reduced significantly. Whilst there are 12 names on the list there are probably only 3-4 who are actively waiting and wanting to join. The site is currently full although a decision is needing to be made on the use of half of MJ's plot which is vacant. The desire is to make this an accessibility plot but this is wip
4. Approach road. A short discussion on this led to the view that it was not the responsibility of the WEAA to do anything about it
5. Horse manure. There are plans to source manure from a nearby horse farm and facilitate the collection. One weekend and one week day will be allocated whereby members can go to the farm site, fill up bags of compost and then these will be loaded onto the truck and brought back to the site. The Committee would assist any plot holders who were not physically able to do this. BW/ PH will provide more information in due course
6. Watering in a hosepipe ban. BW reiterated that you are able to use the hose to water vegetable crops in a banning period, but not flowers. Following a question it was also advised that people should keep their compost moist- this also reduces any chance of combustion in a really hot spell
7. Potentially plans to hold a BBQ, or similar event, over the weekend of the King's Coronation
8. West End Flower show. David Ford, the organiser, gave an update on plans for this year's show. He highlighted the desire for more entrants and asked what the view from the floor was. The consensus was that there was already good variety (maybe class numbers could be reduced) and this should continue but there is also a desire to just show vegetables without the pressure of competition. So potentially have a combination of a number of individual's

vegetables grouped together. David undertook to work with BW and PG over the coming weeks

With no further items, meeting called to a close