

KENILWORTH ALLOTMENT TENANTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD ON THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER 2021, AT 7.30PM AT THE KENILWORTH SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Present

15 members including committee members, 14 eligible to vote.

The quorum of six members in addition to committee members was met. Voting rights - one per tenancy.

1. Apologies none.
2. The Minutes of the 2020 AGM were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Barbara Platten and seconded by Paula Hallam.
3. Matters Arising - none.
4. Chairman's Annual Report
Chris Coton gave the following verbal report to the meeting:

"Your association continues to go from strength to strength and I'm pleased to report another successful year.

Turnover of plots has reduced considerably with 11 new plot holders joining us from the waiting list which now stands at 105. Allotments continue to be very much in high demand. We are eagerly anticipating the creation of more allotments with the new Eastern housing development.

With a more stable base of plot holders comes a greater sense of community, as we come to share our trials and tribulations of growing your own food and our shared engagement with nature and the changing seasons.

The shop continues to trade exceptionally well with turnover around £15000 including £600 of recycled tools and equipment. With a supply of good quality peat free compost, sales of this important peat replacement has increased substantially. I would like to thank Pete, Trudy and Paula for their dedication every weekend to make this the success it is. We are looking forward to next year when we can safely bring back volunteers to help in the shop.

Our engagement with the wider community continues with open day attracting 500 visitors in August. National garden scheme saw 90 visitors enjoy the well maintained Beehive Hill site in June. And in September we joined National Heritage Open Days for the first time with over 100 visitors some from far afield. From these visitors we received lots of positive comments such as how peaceful and beautiful the allotments were.

Our participation in the Lions' charity day in Talisman Square saw lots of people stopping to chat and buy produce including Dahlias being in particular high demand. I would like to thank Nick & Nicki Schofield for donating these and the bee boxes made by Nick from recycled wood which also sold well. St John's church Eco fayre was another event attended again promoting allotments to the wider community.

We have continued to raise considerable sums of money this year including for charity such as the £200 donation from open day to the Mayor's charities Kenilworth youth wellbeing hub and Compassionate Kenilworth. The Macmillan coffee morning a first for us this year raised £320.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for their hard work and dedication over this past year to make the Association such a success.

And finally I thank all members who volunteered their time, donated plants, produce, spent money in the shop, took part in competitions and kept their plots mainly weed free".

5. Treasurer's Report for the Year End 30 September 2021

The annual accounts had been distributed with the papers for the meeting.

Phil Jordan stated that he was pleased to report that the Association remains in a strong financial position with income slightly above last year. Income from events and the Trading Shed contribute to the wellbeing of the association.

There is still expenditure to come against the projects reserve for the new bridge and the extension to the Trading Shed. So far £1,965 costs for the bridge have been met with a further amount to come of between £5-£6,000.

Net assets stand at £30,908,37 (£32,269.45 in 2020).

Over the years there has been prudent management with strong reserves. This means we can take on these projects. We will still be in a strong management position once the projects are completed.

The core activities sheet shows a deficit, a slight reduction in the Trading Shed profit margins contributes to this deficit.

It was proposed by Martin Poole and Seconded by Pete Hayes, all others were in agreement, that the accounts be approved.

6. Election of Committee

Vacancies for two committee members, advertised in the Newflash this year, had unfortunately not been filled.

Committee members were willing to continue as follows: Ann Barry, Lily Brownjohn, Chris Coton, Paula Hallam, Pete Hayes, David Hoy, Peter Jones, Philip Jordan.

Proposed by Phil Rowley and Seconded by Brenda Watts that the Committee be elected en bloc, all in agreement.

7. Motions – No Motions had been received.

8. Any other business

Barbara Platten asked that the surface water on plots 78,79,80 be minuted. This had been discussed at a Committee Meeting on 12 October 2021 and it appeared to be coming from a spring as Severn Trent had investigated and ruled out a leak. Advice would be sought from a plot holder who is also a drainage engineer.

The new footbridge had been delivered and would be installed on Saturday 16 October 2021. Pete Hayes asked for volunteers and/or spectators from 9.00am, all would be very welcome.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 7.46pm.