

Burnside and Vinery Road Allotment Society

Minutes of AGM held on 23/11/21

St Thomas's Hall, Ancaster Way, 19:00 to 20:15

Attendees: Michael Brown, Joan Bullock-Anderson, Penny Henderson, Andy Kurdynowski, John McGill, Matthew Whitelegg, Kate Whitelegg, Phil Bales, Hanna Agnieszka, Ingrid Jackson, Sedat Kantar, Veronica Latham, John O'Dell, Tuomo Rinne, Hamish Symington, Lynn Turner, Janet Umpleby, Katie Blyth, Henry Eriksson-Martin, Peter Harrison.

Apologies: Max Scheremetjew, Emma Lacy & Olivia Bull.

Welcome: Andy Kurdynowski (Committee Vice Chair).

Andy gave a brief clarification of the need for an AGM, which was augmented by Penny Henderson (past chair of the committee).

Apart from the constitutional requirement to hold an AGM, two other issues were given: the necessity of addressing the motion to give greater autonomy to the two allotment sites – Burnside and Vinery Road, and the importance of recruiting new committee members.

Andy introduced the motion for site autonomy and gave a concise explanation of the issues and proposed institutional arrangement. It was then moved from the floor that some amendments may be required to the proposed arrangement: There shall be two vice-chairs – one for each site – and there shall be a minimum of two joint meetings per annum, co-chaired by the two vice chairs. The two sections of the committee will meet independently a minimum of 4 times per year.

A vote was taken with 100% approval.

Website: Joan Bullock-Anderson gave an overview of the website. There have, recently, been approximately 600 hits per month. Some suggestions came from the floor for the inclusion of information on soil profiles and crop suitability. This was noted.

Accounts: Matthew Whitelegg reviewed the accounts and its means of revenue. The costs of the removal of unwanted material from the sites was particularly identified. The matter of apportioning the expendable budget between the two sites was discussed, yet with no finalisation. In response to a question from the floor on means of budgetary forecasting, Kate Whitelegg gave a brief description of the means of revenue collection and its implications for such forecasting. It was agreed that the society continues with its present arrangement with the Financial Conduct Authority.

Matthew iterated his intention to relinquish this role in the near future.

Site Reports: there was no committee representation from the Vinery site. As regards Burnside, the division of roles between Matthew Whitelegg and Andy Kurdynowski was alighted upon. MW takes responsibility for managing the waiting list and plot allocation; AK takes responsibility for material matters such as the burn bin, community infrastructure, site infrastructure and the removal of rubbish, amongst other matters.

Committee membership: Max Scheremetjew has voiced his intention to resign. There was a general call for plot holders to volunteer for committee membership. Two volunteered: Peter Harrison for the Vinery site, Olivia Bull (unable to attend the AGM, but had volunteered in advance) for the Burnside site.

AOB: There was no outstanding other business.

The AGM was called to an end at 20.15.