

Minutes OTHAS AGM 2018

Held at St Augustine Church (Thursday 20 September 2018)

Venue: *St Augustine's Church Hall, Honor Oak Park*

Apologies - Andy, Amanda, Kim, Jill, James, Noemie, Jane, Maggie

Minutes of AGM 2017 Agreed

Matters Arising - None

Chair's Report (see below)

Treasurer's Report (see below)

The report was accepted

Membership Report

We have 41% Southwark 59% Lewisham split, waiting list has 146 Southwark 80 Lewisham. 7 plots vacant.

Elections

Chair : Jon Johnson (nominated Carole; seconded Martin) Elected

Secretary : Sara Nunnington (nominated Carole; seconded Alice) Elected

Treasurer : Alice Baker (nominated Jon; seconded Carole) Elected

Other Members: Carole Backler, Martin Smith, Simon Miles, Dee Malcolm, Christian Denereaz (Elected)

Auditors- Linda McLaughlin & Jane Wilson (Elected)

Trustees - Andy Bradshaw and Jon Johnson were re-confirmed as Trustees.

AOB

There was a discussion about the use of herbicides and whether this is necessary or desirable. It was agreed that the Committee should discuss the issue with a view to proposing measures to address the concerns raised and present that to the membership at an EGM as soon as is practicable.

Chair's Report

"I apologise for not being with you in person, but as you may know, I am taking a year's break; right now I am at the start of spring in South America while One Tree Hill sinks into autumn! To those of you who have made it, thank you for coming tonight; attendance at communal events is what makes us a true society.

May I start this review of the year by thanking all the committee members for the considerable time and effort they have all committed to their roles in the last twelve months? My own work commitments have been pretty onerous in that time and it is one less source of personal stress to know that the society is being run by a team who all deliver on their commitments and put in more besides.

So thanks to Jon for his organised approach to being secretary and sharing with me our final dealings with the council; to Alice for keeping the accounts and particularly this year for facing up to Castle Water after they outrageously withdrew significant monies from our account, getting a refund in the end. Thanks to Carole for keeping track of our ploholders and lettings so well; to Simon for publicising and leading our social events, to Martin for co-ordinating workdays and to James for sharing his horticultural / ecological knowledge and enthusiasm.

The next chair will be well supported by these existing committee members, and I hope we are able to elect a couple more tonight. Looking back over the last year, it has been more challenging, horticulturally speaking, than most, with unseasonably early fine weather followed by a brutal cold snap, then a drought. I hope you all managed to generate some produce despite the unpromising conditions.

For us as a society, this has been a significant year. After many twists and turns, entirely emanating from our landlord (London Borough of Southwark), our new lease was finally engrossed on 20 April. That gives us 20 years of peppercorn rent and responsibility for trees and fences. To cover the change of responsibilities the council committed to a £19,500 grant; this is to be paid in four instalments throughout this year, with the first 50% already received. The money will be allocated generally to improvements related to fencing and tree works, but there may be opportunities to draw on it for other projects, so please keep suggesting them.

The council also committed to address a number of problem trees before we take on full responsibility; after a faltering start, they have reconnoitered the job and have assured us they will be undertaking the works this autumn. Please note that tree management is a sensitive subject in the borough. Our new lease contains some strict constraints on what we do; please do not fell or trim any trees without referring to the committee, so we can get agreement from the council.

The grant in turn facilitated the construction, at last, of the new delivery area. I hope that facility is to everyone's satisfaction; it certainly surprised Hamish when he turned up with his first woodchip delivery after its construction! We have allocated £6,000 of Southwark's grant to the total cost of £8,000 or so.

We have benefited from upgrade works in the cemetery, which included works to the fence between us and the cemetery; please note this did not require any contribution from our development fund.

The facilities have also been improved this year by construction of the new shelter in the area of the pizza oven; thanks to William Warren for masterminding that work. We are planning to make further improvements to that area shortly, including an upgrade to the rather dilapidated stage. None of this can happen, though, without commitment from the ploholders to contribute to communal tasks, either by participating in work days or recording time spent on your own, not just on projects but on general maintenance tasks like woodchipping etc.

We have expanded the number of plots available next to the orchard area and are now maintaining our community contribution by hosting a plot worked by AFRIL (Action for Refugees in Lewisham).

Enough from me now, I hope the society goes from strength to strength while I am away and I look forward to reconnecting with you all when I return next Autumn. Thanks again to the existing committee and good luck to the new chair and committee members."

OTHAS

ONE TREE HILL ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

Statement of account for period 1st September 2017 – to 31st August 2018

Treasurer Alice Baker

Bank Balance 31st August 2017 **£ 4,817.15**

Income

Money from S. Council and plot rents £11,178.50
Expenses from Manure area £ 6,237.51
less other expenditure £ 1,668.27

Total **£ 8,089.37**

Bank Balance 1st September 2018 **£ 9,042.13**

Income 1st September 2017- 31st August 2018

Money from Southwark Council 4th April 2018 £ 4,875
11th June 2018 £ 4,875
Plot Rents £2,716.50
Associate Member rents £ 5

Expenditure 1st September 2017 - 31st August 2018

Affiliation Fees (NSALG) £ 231
Water Rates £ 592.40
Site insurance £ 78.64
Room in Church for AGM £ 40
Strimmer repair £ 125.52
Purchase of new strimmer £ 284.80
Wheelbarrow wheels £ 39.00
Tree stakes ties etc. for woodland saplings £ 15.38
General fertilizer for trees £ 51.53

William Bailey land registry work for new lease £ 210

Expenses for Manure area
Drawings/plans £ 577.92
Sand £ 288.39
Plant hire £ 2,729.69
Handrail £ 1,200
Blocks £ 1,441.51
Total £ 6,237.51

Money taken for petty cash £ 40.00
(Stamps ,stationery, toilet paper, separate book kept)

Committed Expenditure
key deposits money held £ 508.40

Monies Available as of 31st August 2018 **£ 9,042.13**

Social Fund

Separate fund is maintained by social secretary who manages all fund raising for, and expenditure from raffles, open days etc, which is used to fund refreshments and expenses for the AGM and events such as bonfire night.

