

## Draft Minutes of OTHAS Extra Ordinary General Meeting (EGM)

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**Committee members present: Andrew Coulson, Chris Williams, Martin Smith, Christian Denereaz, Dee Malcolm, Simon Miles, Alice Baker**

**17 ploholders attended in person and seven attended via zoom.**

**Ian White chaired the meeting**

item	Title and discussion notes	Agreed action	Lead
1.	<b>Apologies received from Andy Bradshaw and Helen Mason</b>		
2.	<b>OTHAS Accounts 2020/21</b> Alice presented these accounts which had been carried forward from the AGM in September 2021. Issue of ongoing commitments re tree and fence maintenance was raised. Difficulty of getting in touch with Southwark Tree Officers was noted. Question raised as to whether the Society can insure against costs of damage esp trees and fence related. The Accounts were accepted.	Andrew Coulson and Christian Denereaz are drafting a long term financial plan for the Committee to review prior to presenting to the AGM. Alice to investigate Committee to note	Andrew Coulson and Christian Denereaz Alice Baker
3.	<b>COMMUNAL WORK</b> Dee Malcolm introduced this item. Ongoing issue that not all members are carrying out their six hours a year of communal work as required by their licence. Options for engaging members that were discussed included: Updated list of tasks to be regularly circulated and posted on all noticeboards Absorb routine tasks into Chris Williams' project days Set up some form of neighbourhoods so that groups of ploholders work together to maintain their part of the site Plot inspections to include more rigorous requirements for path maintenance	Dee to action There is a need to reinstate or replace noticeboard near top gate	
	Feedback from the floor: Need to set clear standards		

item	Title and discussion notes	Agreed action	Lead
	<p>Some plotholders do hours but don't report</p> <p>Some neighbourhoods may not have much work/converse</p> <p>How to assign areas such as paving or path to loo etc</p> <p>There may be a need to reinforce the obligations part of the induction process</p> <p>Consider differential rents?</p> <p>Are there incentives for those who do the work rather than penalise those who don't?</p> <p>Possibly publish a list of plotholders that have not reported doing the hours? Attempt to exert peer pressure.</p>		

Can the committee clarify whether the six hours a year obligation is per plot or per plot holder – some plots are shared.

Committee to check and report back

**MOTION**

It was proposed that the Committee bring back firm proposals to the AGM in September

The motion was carried  
Committee to action

Dee  
Malcolm

**4. USE OF PESTICIDES**

It was proposed that the Society wishes to consider banning the use, by plot holders, of all commercial herbicides, insecticides (pesticides) and molluscicides (slug pellets).  
Exceptional use by permission of the Committee to deal with specific issues.  
This proposal was discussed at some length and issues with identifying acceptable chemicals etc were debated.

If a licence and or constitution change required Southwark Council will need to be informed.

Question raised about whether there is widespread use of chemicals on the site?

Suggested that the Committee could look to adopt wording used by other sites

What would be the penalties for using chemicals?

<b>item</b>	<b>Title and discussion notes</b>	<b>Agreed action</b>	<b>Lead</b>
	Could we invite an organic gardener to speak to the membership? MOTION		
	Committee to prepare an amended proposal for both membership licences and the Constitution to be proposed to the AGM in September	Committee to respond	<b>Committee</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>		
	Children Play Area Potential issues identified when children are playing on site and straying either onto other plots or too close to vulnerable adults. Also that toys in the raised bed area are not being stored appropriately.	<b>Committee to remind all plot holders of their obligations regarding bringing children and other non members onto the site</b>	<b>Committee</b>
	Similar issue raised in connection with AFRIL in that some users of their plot for classes etc may not always stay in common areas or the AFRIL plot and that gates may not always be locked.		
	Question raised as to how plot holders who are struggling with their plots can engage help. Meeting was reminded of the Associate Member scheme	<b>Committee to remind all plot holders</b>	
<b>6</b>	Ian White thanked all those who attended and closed the meeting		