

# ALSAGER GARDENS ASSOCIATION

- DRAFT UNAPPROVED -

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2020

## PRESENT

### Chairman – Adrian Ford

Pauline Hubbard (Vice Chair) David Pitt (Treasurer) David Spall (Trading Secretary)

Derek Hough (President)

Mike Smith, John Nixon, Mike Hubbard and 15 members

## Opening Remarks

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the AGM.

## 1. APOLOGIES

Hilary Robinson (Membership Secretary), Judith Ford, Lynn McCabe

**2. MINUTES** of the meeting held on 12 March 2019 were proposed by Neil Challinor and seconded by Derek Hough and agreed as a true record

**3. MATTERS ARISING** An update was given about the disrepair of the car parking area at Cedar Avenue.

## 4. TREASURER'S REPORT - David Pitt

David reported that the accounts to year end 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 have been audited by Macintosh. A copy of the audited accounts was distributed to all at the meeting together with narrative on the key points. Any further questions may be directed to David Pitt by email or by telephone.

David Pitt announced his intention to retire as Treasurer at the end of 2020.

## 5. TRADING SECRETARY'S REPORT – David Spall

David first thanked the school for providing the venue for the AGM and for the facilities for refreshments and then thanked the members for purchasing the seeds and seed potatoes and those who assisted with heavy work in restocking the hut. DS reminded members to contact him with any news copy for the twice-yearly newsletters at any point in the year.

DS gave an update on the repaint of the Trading Hut with anti-graffiti paint that enables graffiti to be washed off with water.

The current allotment rents and AGA subscription costs were outlined, and members were reminded that payment for plot rentals can be made at the Trading Hut which opens on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 10am – 12noon. He reminded members that volunteers for the Hut are always required so anyone interested in helping should contact a member of the committee.

## 6. SECRETARY'S REPORT – Pauline Hubbard

PH thanked Lynn McCabe for supporting the Executive Committee during the year.

**PH reported that all key policies are** now in place with the New Financial Procedures now approved. The safeguarding policy is to be reviewed this year.

All documentation is available on the web site.

**PH outlined the various funding** that had been received during the year and the £3260 from Tesco Bags of Help which had been used to create the two raised beds at Talke Road and the single raised bed at Coronation Avenue. The raised beds are available to rent for £10 per annum.

An update was given on the parking area at Cedar Avenue which is in the ownership of Cheshire East (CE) and the difficulties being faced in getting engagement from CE to consider a way forward. Several funding streams have been considered with a large bid being submitted to the CCIF fund and a meeting with Prospect Homes has taken place. Discussions are also taking place with Alsager Town Council who hold the allotment lease.

### **Allotment Open Days Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020.**

PH suggested that this is a themed event to celebrate VE day. This was welcomed and agreed by the meeting. PH is pursuing a grant to support the event.

**Annual Show Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2020** – PH stated that this will be our 68<sup>th</sup> Annual show. We were successful in securing a grant of £400 from the Town Council in 2019 and a further request has been submitted to support the 2020 annual show. The outcome is awaited.

**NEW HOMES BONUS** – PH reported that the bid put forward 1st year for £155k was unsuccessful. No further New Homes Bonus funding is currently available.

## **7. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT – Hilary Robinson**

. PH reported on behalf of HR A copy of the report was provided to the meeting

- We had a total membership of 225 in 2019 of whom approximately 157 are plot holders with approx. 203 mixed size plots. This compares to 190 in 2018 and 192 in 2017
- We are charged £3.00 per Member for NAS membership and its benefits
- The remaining £1 is used towards the running of the Association, including the publication, printing etc of the Newsletters we send out to members twice a year
- Where possible Newsletters are hand delivered otherwise, they are posted. Postage costs over £30 for each newsletter.
- To reduce these overheads, and be more “Green”, reduce our carbon footprint and act in a more environmental and sustainable way, we would like to reduce our use of paper and we are now planning to move to sending the Newsletter out electronically by mail or directing members to view a copy on the website where it can be read or printed on demand.
- A paper copy will still be available to those who request it and copies will be available to pick up from the Trading Hut

Full details of all member benefits are available at the NAS web site.

Go to <https://www.nsalg.org.uk/join-us/membership/>

## **8. PRESIDENTS ADDRESS – Derek Hough**

DH reported on the recent death of Melvyn Buckingham, who had been a huge asset to the AGA in his role as secretary to the AGA for many years.

DH referred to the continuing changing weather conditions and the success and failure of different crops across the various sites during the season and that at Cedar Avenue the extensive recent rainfall having left various parts of the site under water.

He also reported that the Town Council had recently appointed a new facilities manger who would be engaging with the officers of the AGA.

## **9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Derek Hough confirmed that all current officers were willing to stand. He sought any further nominations from the floor for all the positions.

The following were elected

President	Derek Hough
Chairman	Adrian Ford
Vice Chair	Pauline Hubbard
Treasurer	David Pitt
Secretary	Pauline Hubbard
Trading Secretary	David Spall
Membership Secretary	Hilary Robinson

The position of show secretary remains vacant.

#### **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS - NONE**

#### **11. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

*Members were invited to partake in the excellent refreshments provided by David Spall and his wife and a range of homemade cakes from Judith Ford.*

*A variety of seed and potatoes were on sale.*