

# **2023 Annual General Meeting of Highgate Allotment Association**

**Held at Highgate Primary School 2pm 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

## **Committee-Agreed Draft for Approval at HAA 2024 AGM**

### **Present**

Don Adams, Sue Brown, John and Susanne Cakebread, Kate Calvert, Frederique Delacoste, Rita Drobner, Ros Davies, Saul Estrin, Karen Fitzsimon, Therese Gray, Fiona and Dan Hackett, Hinchee Hung, Sally Jones, Geoff Kemball-Cook, Hilary Laurie, Marshall and Sue Levine, Ann Lloyd, Maggy Meade-King, Catherine Minns, Nick Moore, Jose Nicholson, Michael Reece, Felicity Watson and Chris Wilson.

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair (Sally Jones) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from: Sara Jolly, Julia Doyle, Wendy Whale, Sarah Frame, Rahid Khan, Jim Greenhill, Sally Temple, Pat Mealham, Ruth Pavey, Simon Hewitt, Florence Dring, Philip Dring and Dulcie Conway.

### **2. Committee Reports and Discussion**

For **HAA Committee Reports** prepared for the AGM, see HAA website at <https://www.highgate-allotments.org/documents>.

#### **2a Defibrillator and Usage**

There was discussion re getting an audible alert such as a bell or whistle for when situations (which might be emergencies) arose. It was agreed that a centrally located alarm was not practicable, because one would need to get there first. Instead it could be a good idea for individuals to keep a whistle with them to summon 'human help' should it be needed.

#### **2b Shed Shop**

HH reported that paying by phone app for shop purchases was now in operation and running smoothly. To this end the HAA Bank Sort Code and Account Number are posted in the Shed Shop.

As well as opening every Sunday from 12 noon to 2pm, it is intended to open on Wednesdays in the summer.

The next updated price list will include a small number of items with an increased price reflecting the general rise in wholesale costs, particularly for fertilisers.

We plan to double our capacity to hold stocks of horse manure in the near future.

### **3 HAA Treasurer's Report**

For **HAA's 2022 Profit and Loss Statement** see HAA website at <https://www.highgate-allotments.org/documents>.

HH reported that the report was similar to last year (2021). It doesn't include Haringey's 2022 Repair and Maintenance financial contribution because Haringey were late in sending it (but we have received it since).

The financial statement may appear to suggest that last year ended at a loss when in fact reflects the fact that we purchased a lot of new equipment.

### **4 Election of 2023-24 Committee**

Nine nominations were received: Dan Hackett (DH), Don Adams (DA), Sara Jolly (SJ), Rita Drobner (RD), Sally Jones (SJones), Hinchee Hung (HH), Geoff Kemball-Cook (GKC), Maggy Meade-King (MMK), Ann Lloyd (AL). The committee were appointed without a voting election as there were 9 candidates for 10 posts (as specified by the HAA constitution).

## **5 Cultivation Advice Spot - Advice from DH:**

### **Protection**

- It's still too early to plant out potatoes
- Planting under plastic does well for protection
- For protection from pigeon & parakeets, rats and insects, netting is often the best option
- Waterlogging has been more of a problem than usual this last year.

### **Fruit & Nut Trees**

- Sleeve of fine netting on branches of cherries to protect against European fruit fly
- You will get – and keep – more fruit by growing them as a cordons which are then netted
- Lots of trees are above 9ft high - which they shouldn't be. This is against allotment rules as it may cause unnecessary shade or other problems for allotment neighbours. It also often means the tree is of a considerable age and thereby not producing nearly as much as previously. Most trees will get a new lease of life from pruning and some, like apples, will relish a severe prune

### **Miscellaneous**

- Woodchip is very useful for paths and can be valuable for mulching BUT, if they get mixed in with soil, don't use this for planting
- Weeds can tell you a lot about your soil. They can also tell you what has bolted from somewhere else
- Sorrel is good to grow for small butterflies, and patches of nettles are needed by certain insects
- If you find a dead plant, don't just throw it away. Pull it up carefully and have a good look at it as it may tell you what the problem was

## **6 Any Other Business**

### **6a Removal of Rubbish**

No more skips are being provided by Haringey and it has been found that organising skips by other means involves an overwhelming amount of work for committee members. It has proved far better for people to take their own rubbish to rubbish/recycling centres, often making a group for van-hire or other means of removal.

### **6b On-site Toilet Facilities**

Enquiries are being made regarding on-site "compost toilets" and whether they have been successful on other allotment sites.

### **6c Environmental Footprint**

Many tenants are keen to see us all following a more environmentally beneficial blueprint. Suggestions included more specific environmental improvement ideas in HAA newsletters, discouraging use of pesticides and herbicides, and collaborating with Haringey to achieve such targets.

RD identified recent initiatives on site including dead hedging, animal hibernaculums and a new wetland area. Currently the Shed Shop sells only one pesticide (organic-approved slug pellets) and no herbicides. RD volunteered to turn tenants' ideas and suggestions into a proposal before next year's AGM. Tenants will be asked for suggestions via HAA newsletters.

### **6c Leylandii Adjoining Site**

A number of plots are shaded by tall Leylandii in the rear garden of a house in View Road. GKC agreed that HAA would write to the householder requesting reduction of the height of the trees.

**Meeting Closed at 3.45pm.**