

Marston Ferry and Blackhall Allotment Society

Minutes from the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 24th of March at 10:30

Present: Paul Blay, Clive Booth, Edwards Bradley, Anna Buchanan, Ken and Shirley Buckingham, Ann Childs, Iom Earle, Gill Edwards, Brian and Faith Fiddian, Albert and Anne Fulks, Celia Glyn, Mary Kroll, Gillian Morriss-Kay, Natasha Robinson, David Rundle, Mike Schofield, Muhammad Sohail, David Sprigings and Tom Stross

Apologies: Sue Cavanna, Matthew Coville, Jeremy Cunningham, Gary Gray, Ingrid Lunt, Ruth Rundle and Allister Smith

The **minutes** of the AGM of 2018 were approved. There were no matters arising.

Chairman's report: 2018 had been a disappointing year so much so that the annual get together had not been staged as it was felt there was little to celebrate. The standard of gardening is very high with the site being very well tended which is much appreciated by the committee.

Treasurer's report:

1. Auditors

The Financial Conduct Authority requires that the Society's accounts be audited annually. As in previous years, the AGM authorized that the 2019 and subsequent years' accounts be audited by two lay auditors, in accordance with FCA rules. Proposed Tom Stross; seconded Gillian Morriss-Kay

The auditors for the 2018 accounts were Jonathan Bard and Edward Bradley; the Treasurer and the AGM thanked them for their work. The AGM approved Jonathan Bard and Edward Bradley as lay auditors for the 2019 accounts. Proposed Tom Stross seconded Gillian Morriss-Kay

2. 2018 Accounts

Receipts: £1,761; Expenditure: £1,401; Annual Surplus: £359; Funds at 31/12/18: £3,407.2018 was the third year running with an annual surplus greater than forecast, so funds at end of 2018 were about £1,400 above normal. The surpluses were due to lower-than-expected spending, especially delays in repair work. In 2019 a deficit approaching £1,000 was possible: repairs had now been carried out and the new compost supplier was more expensive. The Committee had decided to cover this deficit from existing funds, and not to increase rents for 2019. The AGM approved the Society's Accounts for 2018. Proposed Clive Booth seconded Mike Schofield.

The treasurer was asked whether there should be an annual rent increase to which he responded that the committee felt it best for increases to be implemented when there was the financial need to do so.

Secretary's report: 2018 had been a very challenging year because of a late spring a summer drought, theft and vandalism and fly tipping. Autumn had been the most productive season with a bumper fruit harvest. Some stalwart members had left most of whom have been replaced by keen gardeners. There are currently two plots vacant, these have been advertised.

Election of Committee Members: The present members are willing to serve for 2019. The Treasurer is hoping that a successor might be found for his role on 2020. Gill Edwards proposed Brian and Faith Fiddian to fill existing vacancies, and was seconded by Paul Blay.

Working Days: Clive Booth reported that, although weather affected. there had been a good turn-out and a great deal achieved at the annual clear up. He announced the working days for 2019 are to be Saturday 5th and Sunday 13th of October.

Vandalism: The current spate of vandalism was discussed. NR will speak to the community police and TS will contact the Marston site for their view. G M-K is trying to get the problem added to the next Allotments Federation meeting. The general view was that little could be done to mitigate the problem.

AOB: G M-K thanked Ingrid Lunt for organising the society's involvement in the Ox Clean initiative.

A vote of thanks to the committee was proposed by Edward Bradley and seconded by Anna Buchanan.

The meeting ended at 11:10