

Alers Road Leisure Gardens Association

AGM Minutes - 5th April 2024

Present	Apologies for Absence
Adrian Hawthorne – Chair	Jane Phelps
Debra Collins - Secretary	Eddy Haydon
John Hollands – Treasurer / Site Co-ordinator	
32 Members	

Min	Item
1.0	CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME
	The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting,
2.0	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM
	Minutes from last year were all agreed.
3.0	MATTERS ARISING
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No matters arising from the AGM in 2023.
4.0	CHAIRMAN’S REPORT
	<p>AH thanked all the Committee for their work and all the volunteers who help around the site.</p> <p>There was a serious incident on the site relating to the new buildings adjacent to the allotment site. John Holland has been liaising with the council and site managers. No one has been hurt, but there was some slight damage and inconvenience to a couple of the plots.</p> <p>The site on the whole looks well maintained, some plots need some work. We are entering the Ruxley in Bloom competition again this year. We have previously won the competition on several occasions but not for the past few years. If everyone maintains their plots including the paths and the grass at the ends we will have a very good chance this year.</p> <p>Bexley Mencap have been recognised for the work they do on the site. AH would also like to recognise the work that MIND also do on site.</p>
5.0	SECRETARY’S REPORT
	<p>DC shared that the site is currently full and that we currently have 15 people on the waiting list. This is made up of 10 new people and 5 current plot holders waiting for specific plots. Currently the wait is approximately 4 – 5 months.</p> <p>We have been updating our list of members emails. Emails are the easiest and quickest way of disseminating information to everyone. We now only have 19 members without email information, not too bad out of 131. We need to keep this information up to date, so please let me know of any changes.</p>

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	<p>A cultivation survey will be completed in the next few weeks on Eddy's return, as everyone is aware this is a requirement of our licence. If at anytime any plot holder is not able to work their plot due to health or personal reasons, please send me an email. Least then when surveys are carried out or your plot is raised as a concern, we will know the reason rather than wait till you get a letter and then be upset or angry.</p> <p>The best way to contact me is via email as I work full time. The email address to contact me is secretary@alersroadallotments.org or text / whatsApp on 07951 723874</p> <p>We are entering our Allotment Site in the Ruxley in Bloom again this year. I have information here for anyone that wants to enter their individual plots.</p> <p>We try to write a newsletter approximately 3 times a year, and are always looking for any contributions for the newsletter or the website. The articles can be advice, questions or information that you want to share. We need the website to be kept current with new content. The website could be a good source of information and support.</p>
6.0	SITE CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT
	<p>Constantly the same people helping with the up keep of the site – Gerry and Eddy. Anybody can help. We want to win the Ruxley in Bloom, please help by keeping edges of your plots tidy.</p> <p>We have equipment available which a committee member will be able to assist you with. However, please consider committee members when asking for equipment they may not be able to get it immediately for you.</p> <p>John and Jerry cleared an abandoned plot, took them 3 days and cost £800. If thinking of giving up a plot please don't wait till it is such a poor state.</p> <p>As Adrian shared earlier, 11 dwellings are being built adjacent to our site. 3 weeks ago, brickworks collapsed. The majority of the rubble fell in the building; however, some fell on our site. They have now added additional scaffolding which is on our site, it is going to be removed this week. Steve Fox asked if they are going to put up a fence? The builders are not putting up a fence but homeowners may. JH said that we have raised that previously we have had problems with brambles between our fence and the residents' fences. The gap is so tight that you can't manage anything between the 2 fences.</p>
7.0	TREASURER'S REPORT
	<p>The 2023 accounts were shared with all attendees. We spend far less than other sites as we do a lot of maintenance ourselves.</p>

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	<p>Our income is majority from rent.</p> <p>Expenditure: Insurance is going up. Site up keep – £250 fence repairs, £200 rubbish to be taken away £170 for the Manure man £800 on machines serviced regularly Water is our biggest charges Adrian asked if we pay local authority same as council run sites. John said no, we pay by the sq m, where council run sites just collect rent.</p> <p>We have reserves for any capital projects.</p> <p>John stated that the accounts are available for anyone if they wished to look at them.</p>
8.0	ADOPTION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS
	<p>The Annual Accounts were proposed by Mr Bearman and seconded by Mr Hopwood. John thanked Kirsten Gibbs our Auditor and asked if she was happy to continue to audit our accounts, Kirsty agreed to audit the accounts for 2024.</p>
9.0	BUSINESS PLAN
	<p>John explained that the local authority (LA) have previously been concerned regarding delegated sites as some had failed and gone back to council care. LA asked all delegated sites to show how we would manage, to have a business plan. John shared a print out of our Business Plan and explained it. Site is secure, well run. The committee is strong and we are in a good financial position.</p>
10.0	CONSTITUTION
	<p>Adrian explained the need to update the constitution, which has been shared with all members since last years AGM. John Holland commented that the objectives should be broken down, smaller and smarter. Proposed by Roy Seymour and seconded by Vince Petulla</p>
11.0	AFFILIATION
	<p>Bexley Federation of Allotments – unless the federation can get a chair and a secretary it won't be able to continue. If it continues we will affiliate but if ceases this will end. Adrian said that if the federation ceases it will be a shame, as the concept is good.</p>

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12.0	ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE
	<p>All committee members have agreed to continue. Committee voted on block. Proposed by Mandy Bearman, and seconded by Lawrence Steele, there was a unanimous show of hands.</p> <p>Chairman Adrian Hawthorne Secretary Debra Collins Treasurer John Hollands. Committee members; Ray Mitchell, Eddie Haydon, Mary Harrison, Linda Hartard, Roy Seymour. John Young, Richard Collins, Ray Mudie</p>
13.0	MOTIONS
	<p>No motions brought</p>
14.0	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Hollands said that our committee works well. We have a meeting every other month at 10.30am on the last Sunday of the month. We have open access at the beginning of the meeting for anyone to come and talk to us. Minutes from each meeting are on the website this includes future meeting dates.• Andy Bearman won the raffle.
END – MEETING CLOSED 21.00	