

WEST END ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION (WEAA)

Minutes of AGM meeting: Tuesday 13th February 2024

Venue: West End Village Hall

- **Committee Members Present**

Patrick Harpur (PH, Chair), Paul Gibson (PG, Treasurer), David Keen (DK, Secretary), Helen Spinney (HS) and Bob Waller (BW).

Apologies for Absence: Christine & John Chadwick, Louise Hartwell and Richard & Irene Hobbs-Meyer

- **Matters arising from the AGM held 15th February 2023**

The minutes of the meeting were approved with no points arising

- **Treasurer's Report (covering year to 31 December 2023)**

Net loss for the year of £24.23 (2022 Profit £554.48).

Main reasons for the loss are;

1. **Seed Income.** (2023- £53.30; 2022- £488.00) Under the new scheme most members now order on-line. This has proved very popular but the commission accruing to WEAA will not be received until early 2024. There is therefore a timing difference that will catch up next year.
2. **Water Charges.**(2023- £669.90; 2022 - £264.92). Charges are accrued a year in arrears and 2022 was an incredibly dry year so water usage increased dramatically. 2023 reading is much lower so 2024 will see a lower charge

Other Highlights-

- Rental income flat to 2022 at £2,227.53. This reflects the maintaining of rental charges at 17.5p per sq yard. It is noted that the 2023 increase to 20p per sq yd will be reflected in the 2024 accounts.
- Equipment purchases of £137.97 were a BBQ and gas bottle
- Shed security of £175 was the work BW undertook to fix the damage of the summer break-in
- Balance Sheet- A healthy cash balance of £11,732.56 which includes money received for 2024 rentals.
- We continue to accrue for water charges even though we have not been billed for several years. There is a reserve covering this of £3,563.42
- Overall there is an accumulated fund of £6,242.74

- **Chairman's Report**

PH welcomed and thanked those members in attendance. A summary of the year included;

- A mixture of weather throughout the year but none of the extremes seen in 2022. Overall this led to a satisfactory growing season.
- In the summer we had a break-in at the shed. BW effected repairs and we now only keep low value items, heavily marked, that we hope will deter would-be burglars
- The West End Flower show was a great success and it was good to see so many members entering, particularly those first timers

- PG walked away with the Onion Cup in the face of some stiff opposition and BW was overall very successful. A number of prizes went to other members across the categories. 2024 participation is highly encouraged
- Social events. The poor weather conspired against a big turnout for the traditional Guy Fawkes bonfire inside of a few hardy souls who nonetheless had an enjoyable, if somewhat wet evening. With the purchase of the BBQ there are plans for more events in 2024.
- Princess Alice Hospice have asked if members would be willing to donate surplus flowers as this is something not covered in their budgets but so appreciated by the patients. Currently a number of members already do, but everyone should be aware should they so choose (btw- this would also apply to any excess vegetables)
- PH and BW have been talking to the Council about a new/repared boundary fence and hopefully some action may be taken. PH also advised that the Oaks on the lower end of the plot have Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) disease. Again, being discussed with Council and others but family pets should be kept away. The situation will be monitored into Spring.

- **Election of Officers and Committee Members**

Bob Waller and Paul Gibson have served a 2 year term and are standing for re-election. Proposed and seconded from the floor and passed unanimously

The following officers are willing to serve a second year of their 2 year elected term

Committee Member – Helen Spinney

Chair – Patrick Harpur

Secretary – David Keen

- **The Bernie Carr Memorial Cup award**

The award this year was presented to Bob Waller. This reflects both the support that he has given to plot holders and the amount of work he puts in around the plot in terms of maintenance and upkeep. He has completely re-engineered the shed door, actively encouraged participation at the Flower Show and is always friendly and helpful to everyone

Well done Bob and many thanks from all the plot holders

Any Other Business

A number of items arose:

1. BW said that work parties will re-start in the coming weeks with Bacon butties being on the menu from the BBQ
2. Debbie Harding raised the issue of our responsibility to maintain an adequate First Aid kit. The current one probably has a number of out of date items. Committee undertook to purchase a new Kit.
3. Kim Hutton thanked the Committee for their work. This had also been raised by John and Christine Chadwick who wished this to be noted.
4. Peter Nightingale presented a document dated from 1895 which first established the West End Allotment. The land had been given by the Nightingale family for a peppercorn rent. Ultimately, the plot was compulsory purchased by the Council sometime in the inter war years. It is quite a unique situation to have history dating back so far and the documents will be uploaded onto the WEAA website for general information. The Floor thanked Peter for his insight
5. HS outlined a proposal to use Plot 38b as a communal plot to grow flowers (Puch's old plot). HS asked that anyone interested should in the first instance speak to her. With the request from the

Hospice the general consensus was that this was a very good idea and several people expressed an interest in helping.

6. BW asked for volunteers to help paint the remaining two mowers in garish colours
7. Participation at the 2024 West End Flower show will be encouraged throughout the season with BW putting on tips and ideas on our facebook page

There being no other items the meeting was closed