**Minutes of LRRHAA Annual General Meeting**

Tuesday, 12 November 2019 • Rose Hill Community Centre

**Officers in Attendance:**

Nick van Hear Co-Chair

William Beinart Trustee

Catherine Gibb Trustee

Arnold Harpin Treasurer

Lorin Watt Secretary

Garth Bottomley Committee Member

Theresa Gurl Committee Member

Ian Matten Committee Member

**Apologies:** Helen Beinart, Colin Cavey, Khimding Devendra, Laura Laube,

Caroline O’Connor, Paul Wavell

1. **Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting** held 2 November 2018 were agreed and

signed as a true record by Nick van Hear.

2. **Co-Chair Report**

* **A jammed lock on the gate**, which left a dozen people stranded on site one evening, was the incident of the year. Fortunately, a duplicate could be made relatively quickly.
* **Working party attendance** varied from very few to 20. Thanks are due to those who helped shift the mound of rubbish that had accumulated downhill from the container.
* **Water** is by far the biggest annual expense. Watering at inappropriate times, excessive watering, and enforcement of the Rule requiring water catchment on sheds have become perennial bones of contention.

When comment was later invited from the floor, alternate views on the sharing of water expense emerged. One pointed out that gardening practices vary across our diverse membership and that an intensively cultivated plot requires more water than the average, adding that willingness to share this expense reflects a community spirit. Others think it unfair that the cost is shared equally by those who do conserve and those who do not.

It was generally agreed, though, that continuing efforts should be made to reduce consumption. Specific suggestions from the floor included enforcing a surcharge and stickering sheds with no water catchment, requiring water catchment on all plots, and negotiating a collective order for water butts.

William B volunteered to monitor water catchment and to lead efforts to better communicate good conservation practice to members.

* **A new lease agreement** is being negotiated between the Council and the O&DFAA (the umbrella grouping for 35 allotment sites). Rents and responsibilities for site maintenance will be re-defined by the new lease, due to come into effect in 2021. The draft rent increase is very modest.
* **Thanks** to Pearl and the others involved for organising a successful **Summer Party**, and to all committee members for volunteering time and effort across the year.
* Ian and Helen Matten were congratulated on winning the **O&DFAA Centenary Competition** Challenge Trophy, as were highly commended members Colin Cavey and William Beinart. LRRHAA fared less well in the site competition this year. Thanks to Colin S for shepherding the judges during their visits.

3. **Treasurer Report**. 2018/19 saw a deficit of £279.80. The2019/20 draft budget, which reflects the Sept 2019 rent increase, projects a surplus of £137.39. The capital replacement pot shrank to £408.52 against a target minimum of £500. The committed surplus, at £1507.11 (down from £1786.91 last year), remains above the target minimum of £1500.

Water (£1187), as observed earlier, was by far the biggest single expensein 2018/19**.** The treasurer graphs water usage through the growing months (April – October) and posts regular updates on the board at the shop. He calculated the amount of water consumed during the growing period last year as equivalent to each member using 5 x 10L cans every day.

4. **Lettings Report.** Nick v H presented the lettings report on behalf of Paul, who sent apologies.

Some long-term members resigned last year and will be missed, including Corinne Grimley Evans and Nick Brooks, and Bridget Newman, who was working the raised beds. On a brighter note, we welcomed 16 new members and expanded the plots of some current members. As of late October, there were six on the waiting list and three ¼ plots available.

**REMINDERS:** • Sub-letting of plots is not permitted**.** • Plot swaps between current members can be arranged, but details must be passed to the Lettings Secretary, Treasurer or Secretary.

5. **Secretary Report.** The secretary had nothing to add to the previous reports, except a reminder

that ¼ plots are now named AA, BB, C & D. This is to avoid confusion between ¼ and ½ plots.

6. **Shop Report**. Nick v H explained that Co-Chair Jon Piggott, who also manages the shop, has been

out-of-touch recently. Thanks are due to those who have kept the shop ticking over.

7. **Two changes to the Constitution/Rules** as described in the Annex were passed at this AGM:

* An amendment to the Constitution extending voting rights to a second “Associate” per plot was proposed by Colin Sharp, seconded by Terry Pike and passed unopposed.
* A change to the Rules abolishing the senior discount was proposed by Lorin Watt, seconded by Cathy Gibb and passed with 9 in favour, 4 against and 2 abstentions.

8. **Election of Officers and Committee Members**. Trustee Cathy Gibb oversaw the appointment of

the following to the Committee for 2019/20, all of whom stood unopposed:

Co-Chair: Ian Matten Member: Garth Bottomley

Co-Chair: Nick van Hear Member: Colin Cavey

Treasurer: Arnold Harpin Member: Theresa Gurl

Lettings Secretary: Paul Wavell Member: Khimding Devendra

Secretary: Lorin Watt Member: Terry Pike

9. **Appointment of Auditors**. Member Olga Nerusheva and Nick van Hear from the Committee

volunteered to audit the accounts for 2018/19 and 2019/20.

10. **September 2020 Rent Proposals**. No rent increase was proposed for 2020/21. Whilst we do

not anticipate a significant increase in the Council rent for 2021/22 , members were forewarned that the transfer of some maintenance responsibilities from the Council to our Association under the new lease may impact the 2021/22 budget.

11. **Communication with Members & Newsletters**. Phil H felt it desirable to have a

communications strategy. We will be canvassing members for volunteers to put together newsletters on a regular basis. Olga N’s idea of setting up an LRRHAA WhatsApp group was welcomed and will be implemented.

12. **AOB.**

* Some new members did not recall seeing welcome packs. Phil H reiterated his offer to print these on demand. At a recent meeting of four committee members it was agreed that the pages would be photocopied and signed off by all new members in future. They will also be put up on the web site.
* Terry K queried what contribution might be coming to the Association from the shop and requested the shop accounts be published when available. The shop is not a part of LRRHAA nor in any way connected with the LRRHAA accounts, but the Trustees agreed to discuss his queries with the shop manager.
* Liz F-H lamented the time it took to install a new water butt following her report of leaks last summer, explaining that the butt was regularly re-filled to a level above the leaks. Dzmitry B suggested a notice be put on the butt immediately should such a problem arise in future.
* Kier Construction, who are building a new school in Iffley, might be amenable to approaches for materials, equipment or development of our site as contributions to the local community. Feltham, also working in the area, is another possibility. A new co-op shed on the play area was proposed. All members are invited to contribute ideas

for consideration.

13. **Date of Next AGM**. Tuesday, 3 November 2020

**ANNEX to Minutes of AGM Meeting 12 Nov 2019 re Changes to the Constitution/Rules**

**CONSTITUTION:**

**5.11** Voting by Members at the AGMs and any EGMs is restricted to one vote per plot

**Proposed amendment:**

5.11 The fee-paying Member of a plot may have one vote at the AGMs and EGMs. One additional "Associate" Member, if working the plot with the Member, may have one vote at the AGMs and EGMs, provided the Associate's name is recorded on the membership list.

**RULES:**

1. **Allotment Charges**
   1. The annual membership fee is determined according to the size of the Member’s plot. Members aged 65 years or over are entitled to a 5% discount

**Proposed amendment:**

Delete: ‘Members aged 65 years or over are entitled to a 5% discount’ in 1.1

(thereby abolishing the senior discount)