

# ROMSEY ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

Held at Comrades Club at 19.00 hrs.

		Action
1	<p><b>Attendance.</b> Carole Allen-Morley (CA-M) - Chair Iain Messenger (IM) - Treasurer Denise Audoire (DA) - Secretary Steven Treglown (ST) Diane Kingston (DK) James Vaughan (JV) Rob Hiley (RH) Wayne Lawrence (WL) + 26 Others.</p>	
2	<p><b>Apologies.</b> Robert Le Grice, Martin Ball, Kate Allen, Craig Findlater, Trevor Palmer, Louise Renny, Ian Todhunter, Paul Weston, Lesley Austin, Frank Hilltout, Jenny Fakes, George Bailey, Bram Miller.</p>	
3	<p><b>Previous Meeting Minutes and AOB.</b> Minutes of last AGM held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 were approved.</p>	
4	<p><b>Matters Arising.</b></p>	
4.1	<p><b>Cycle Path</b> – Utilities contractor’s vehicles continue to exit the site via the entry gate. This is dangerous to cyclists with one near miss this year. Members are asked to speak to contractors if they see them abusing the one-way system. Large lorries which are unable to use the one-way system should have a scout.</p>	
5	<p><b>Chair’s Chat.</b></p>	
5.1	<p><b>Pumps</b> – The proposed “Ground Maintenance” metal container should be on site by the end of 2022. Within the container provision will be made for plot holders to carryout refurbishment/repair of water pumps. An engineer’s vice, allen keys spanners and wrenches will be available along with ancillary tools. It will be the responsibility of the plot holders to maintain the water pumps. Each pump location will require a volunteer to carry out maintenance and ensure that water is always available. Training in pump maintenance can be given by volunteer plot holders – contact Chair to arrange. Leather pump washers and non- return seals can be purchased on line, e-bay etc. Costs of maintenance to be shared amongst those using the pump.</p>	
5.2	<p><b>Rats</b> – Rats are on the increase again. Best way to restrict their numbers is by removing their habitat i.e., piles of rubbish, pallets etc. Poison is not a good solution. Rats build up a tolerance and are also quickly replaced by more rats.</p>	
6	<p><b>Rule Changes</b> – None.</p>	
7	<p><b>Members Secretary’s Report</b>- See attached report.</p>	

8	<p><b>Grounds Maintenance Co-ordinators Report</b></p>	
8.1	<p><b>North Boundary Fence</b> – Three options are under consideration for replacing the existing dilapidated wooden fence;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Close boarded wooden fence installed by specialist contractors.</li> <li>2. Metal mesh fencing (stock fencing) with hedging installed by volunteers.</li> <li>3. DIY wooden fencing (donated timber) installed by volunteers.</li> </ol> <p>Contractor’s quotes for” like for like “replacement fencing had been received and reviewed. Lowest price for all works was £6,800 + VAT.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the current lease with Broadlands Estates states that the boundary fencing must be maintained by leaseholder but not necessarily with “like for like” materials.</p> <p>A “show of hands” of all attendees showed that 8 volunteers might be willing to assist with a fencing project.</p> <p>A vote was taken after discussion to determine which of the three options was most favoured. Majority voted for stock fencing with additional hedging. Committee would discuss arranging working parties of volunteers to carry out the works at the next committee meeting. If volunteers are not forthcoming works will have to be carried out by contractors.</p>	
8.2	<p><b>Road Repairs</b> –The cost of laying tarmac on the road from the cross roads to the exit gate has been estimated as £4,000. The road is generally in fair condition despite heavy contractor use over the past twelve months. Members agreed to continue filling in potholes using road planing and review again in 12 months.</p> <p>Utility companies using the allotment roadways will be asked to make a contribution towards their upkeep. £200 was received last year. Should get at least the same this year. Network Rail have been asked to provide stone chippings to repair road on east boundary adjacent to railway fencing.</p>	
8.3	<p><b>Location Banners</b> - Banners for Wood Chippings, Manure and Scrap Metal zones are currently being printed and will soon be available for volunteers to install on site.</p>	
8.4	<p><b>Exit Gate Planting</b> - An area to the right of the exit gate has been designated for planting flowers and bulbs. Members are asked to keep this area tidy, watered and weeded. Any additional planting would be appreciated.</p>	
8.5	<p><b>Skip Hire</b> – A 6 yd. skip will be ordered for a Friday delivery in November. The main purpose of the skip is to remove plastics and rubble from vacant plots that are proving difficult to let. Date to be confirmed.</p>	
9	<p><b>Treasurers Report</b> – See attached summary of receipts and payments issued by Treasurer.</p> <p>Bank Account Balances.</p> <p>Teachers Account £4,930 (Plot deposits held for Members)</p> <p>Current Account £1,977 (Operating funds held for ready access)</p> <p>Deposit Account £4,127 (Operating funds held in interest-baring account)</p> <p>Rent intake for 2022 was slightly lower than previous year due to some plots not being let.</p> <p>A member suggested that the accounts should show “forfeited deposits” as line-item income to operating funds.</p> <p>The proposed accounts were approved and seconded.</p>	
10	<p><b>Election of Officers and Committee.</b></p> <p>Dianne Kingston, Melissa Doherty and Denise Audoire will be leaving the committee. Chair thanked all three for the hard work over the years on the committee which was very much appreciated by all members of RAHA.</p>	

	<p>Remaining committee members were voted to remain on the committee for 2022/2023.</p> <p>Following key roles to remain unchanged;</p> <p><b>Chair</b> – Carole Allen-Morley</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> – Iain Messenger</p> <p><b>Grounds Maintenance</b> – Wayne Lawrence</p> <p>Following key role remains vacant;</p> <p>Member Secretary and Secretary – These posts remain open as no-one present at the meeting was proposed. Members were asked to approach any members that they know to see if they would be interested in filling these roles.</p> <p>Secretary’s role currently being split between other members of the committee.</p> <p>Two new members were voted onto the committee and welcomed by existing members :</p> <p><b>Gemma Collins, Alf Tilt</b></p>	
11	<b>Subscriptions, Rents and Deposits.</b>	
1.1	<p>Committee recommended increasing the Membership Subscription from the current £12 to £15 a year from October 2022.</p> <p>Some members felt that the increased subscription was still good value for money at 29 pence per week.</p> <p>Some members felt that an increase was not required at this time as there is enough money in accounts to cover on going costs.</p> <p>The proposal was put to a vote, with a show of hands inconclusive (50/50).</p> <p>With such a close vote it was agreed that there would be no increase this year.</p>	
11.2	<b>Rent</b> – No change.	
11.3	<b>Deposits</b> – No Change.	
12	<p><b>Honoraria</b> – No change. Committee members not wishing to take the honoraria were thanked for their generosity.</p> <p>Suggestion was made to offer an honorarium of £250 to the new Secretary.</p> <p>This will be discussed at the next committee meeting.</p>	
13	<b>Any Other Business.</b>	
13.1	<b>Rosemary Bushes</b> – bushes near site entrance growing out into road. Plot holder (Craig) to be asked to cut back shrubbery to plot boundary.	
13.2	<p><b>Wood Chippings</b> – are still been “dumped” on site by various tree surgeons.</p> <p>Members are asked to challenge anyone who turns up with a commercial vehicle and make a note of company name/contact details.</p>	
	<p>Minutes taken by Rob Hiley on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022.</p> <p>Minutes checked by Carole Allen Morley on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022</p>	