

ROMSEY ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Monday 27th October 2025.

Held at Comrades Club at 19.00 hrs.

Attendance

Carole Allen-Morley (Chair), Iain Messenger (Treasurer), Jules Facchini (Membership Secretary), Matthew Simpson (Secretary), Bill Chandler, Vincent Coutable, Jenny Fakes, Deborah Sargent 51 further Association members.

Apologies

Apologies from 12 Association members gratefully received

1. Previous Meeting Minutes and AOB.

Minutes of the last AGM held on 7th October 2024 were approved, with one amendment (10.4).

2. Matters Arising

None raised

3. Chairs Chat

3.1 Community

Social events across the past year have been well attended, with tree pruning, wassail, plant and seed swaps along with a BBQ. When put to a vote a majority of members were in favour of continuing to hold social events on the community plot.

3.2 Site Maintenance

Good attendance at a large work party leading to road repairs, and new signs put up to remind drivers to keep to speed limits on the site and the one-way system. It was acknowledged that the gates now work easily, but members need to be in the habit of shutting them at night.

3.3 Code of Conduct and Collegiality

Code of Conduct approved at the last AGM (2024) is a good set of guidelines, but not meeting needs in a practical sense. The new committee is asked to review this to ensure it can be applied effectively. We still have an issue as an association with how we communicate with one another, with the nature of some Facebook posts, and often obnoxious emails directed at committee members. Healthy disagreement is often crossing into the realm of rudeness between Association members.

3.4 Container

The container currently holds a number of tools available to hire. Thanks to Vincent and Eddie who have offered to lead the leasing of tools; the mechanics of which were set up at the 12th May 2025 committee meeting

3.5 New Ideas

Those in attendance were asked to flag anything that hadn't been covered for discussion, both Code and Conduct and tool hire were raised (these are covered above). A further question was raised on vegetable shows/competitions, including La Ronde and the Romsey Show. To the latter it was recognised the large number of volunteers required to support the event, but the committee could review early next year, and gauge interest from members.

3.6 Bonfires

A new complaint has been raised regarding bonfires on the allotments, which has moved to a nuisance procedure. This shouldn't be an issue as our policy if followed prevents this process advancing. It was noted that the council allotments (next door) have adopted a similar approach. It was also acknowledged that the clearing of plots during the summer by burning was a mistake.

3.7 Woodchip Access Paths

Association members were advised of the outcomes of the 29th September Committee meeting, regarding the need to keep access paths (those between plots) clear and left to grass. This is to ensure we are within the constraints of our insurance. Woodchip in the exit carpark was queried, for review in the next committee meeting.

3.8 Pumps

With the dry summer, it has highlighted the need for increasing this provision. The Association has two additional pumps ready to install and this should be a priority for the new year. Additionally collection of rainwater by all plot holders is key as summers get dryer. A further discussion took place regarding depth of water table, and pump bore hole drilling.

3.9 Skip

The committee has proposed that a skip wouldn't be needed until the spring based on observations during plot inspections. When put to a vote the majority agreed this wasn't needed until the spring (4 against).

3.10 Members Questions

a - Open Day

A suggestion was raised that we should hold an open day to raise interest in the allotments and showcase the plots.

b - Plot Size

It was further suggested that offering a smaller introductory plot may encourage new members, and provide a more manageable challenge for new members.

Both matters were passed to the first committee meeting.

4. Membership Secretary`s Report

Please see attached report

5. Treasurers Report

See attached report

During the discussion, three key points were raised: Firstly the Association has run in surplus this year. Secondly regarding longevity of road repairs - road plannings were identified as the most cost-effective way for the Association to maintain the roads. Thirdly was a query regarding money moving out of the deposit account into the operational account - when a member leaves a plot in poor condition (and loses their deposit) this is done so the deposit account always reflects deposits of active members.

7. Election of Officers and Committee

Officers of Committee elected:

- **Chair** - Carole Allen-Morley
- **Treasurer** - Iain Messenger
- **Membership Secretary** - Jules Facchini
- **Grounds Maintenance Co-ordinator** - Vincent Coutable

Committee Members re-elected:

- Bill Chandler
- Jenny Fakes
- Deborah Sargant
- Matthew Simpson
- Alf Tilt

Three New Committee Members:

- Georgia Bird
- Leena Dawes
- Eddie King

Matthew Simpson will continue to fulfill secretarial duties and provide the minutes. As the chair will be absent from meetings for 2025/26 the meetings will be facilitated by the committee, and discussed at the first meeting. They will likely rely on a rotating chair.

8. Membership, Rents and Deposits.

a - Membership - No Change

b - Rent - No Change

c - Deposits – Increased to £50 for new members, agreed by majority (2 against) to help cover cost of plot clearance and deter leaving in poor condition.

9. Honoraria – No change.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 In the absence of a chair, will need to consider how to arrange access to info@romseyallotments.org.uk.

10.2 A note of thanks was made to Chloe who arranges bulk mulch orders for members of the Association. It was agreed this was a great example of Association members working together.

10.3 A query around the health of the newt pond : Carole confirmed newts are plentiful and the pond remained full of water despite the summer heat.

Meeting closed at 20.35