

# WOBURN SANDS & DISTRICT ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 22/03/18 at 7.30pm at the Ellen Pettit Memorial Hall, Woburn Sands

**Present:** 45 Shareholders and 3 Tenants attended

### 1) Welcome and Apologies for Absence

a) Colin Smith opened the Meeting and welcomed everyone for attending.

b) Apologies received from the following: V Russell, J Roberts, S Connelly, P Hamer, M Templeman, G Robinson, H Stannard, M Lyons, D Shaw, A Amphlett & P Toogood

### 2) Minutes of last AGM Meeting

These were read and update provided on storage container in that we have been offered one for nothing from new member D Hercheui when he completes the building project he has.

Minutes were approved.

**Proposed: R Larbey**

**Seconded: A Malleson**

### 3) Chairman's Report

Colin listed the achievements for this year, including fencing the corner of Tidbury Close and planting hedgerow saplings which were kindly donated by The Woodland Trust. Leaflet holder on main car park noticeboard has held bonfire permits over the winter and seed catalogues will be put there when delivered in August. A second holder will be erected at one of the gates on Woodland Way. An informative and enjoyable trip to Barnwell Nursery was well attended last April. The toilet has now been on site for a year and it was and will continue to be serviced on a monthly basis during the growing season. A couple of Apple Pressing days were held at Edgewick Farm last autumn and these were quite well attended. Further days will be held again this year with dates to be advised. A further £5k of grant money should be received shortly. The remaining £2k of grant money from last year will be spend on improving the tracks with rubber matting, particularly on the corners of the furthest track.

The committee are looking into whether the new EU Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will affect us and whether we will need to make any changes.

NAS has provided a free benefit of Liability Insurance to all members registered with NAS. We would need to pass on members' details of names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses. Colin will email members to ask if anyone would like to 'Opt Out' of this benefit.

A minute silence was held for John Bolas who passed away suddenly before Christmas.

### 4) Treasurer's Report

The annual accounts will be available on the Website once auditor has completed, only draft accounts were available in time for this meeting.

Phil reported as of today's date 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 the balance stood at £8k in Bank which includes £2k of remaining grant which needs to be spent by end of this month. The draft accounts were approved.

**Proposed: P Rutt      Seconded: B Byrne**

Phil also advised that current auditor has advised that their costs will more than treble next year to over £900. Vote to accept auditor not held while Phil investigates alternatives.

### 5) Matters raised by Members

a. Proposal for amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws to allow members to hold up to 40 poles. Proposed: C Smith, seconded: H Forrester. Motion accepted

b. Proposal to increase poll charges from 2019/20 by .50p per pole. Proposed: P Rutt, seconded: C Smith. Motion accepted.

c. Proposal to change Bylaws to increase cutting down charge to cover costs and expel members who do not cultivate their plots for 2 years. Proposed: J Wiemer, seconded: C Smith. Motion accepted

d. Proposal to change Bylaws to reflect catchment area as Woburn Sands & District. Proposed: C Smith, seconded: J Wiemer. Motion accepted

e. Proposal for purchase of Polytunnel(s), erection and maintenance by sub-committee of intended users. Proposed: C Smith, seconded: J Wiemer. Motion not accepted as no members were willing to organise a sub-committee.

#### **6) Election of Officers and other Management Committee Members**

**Chairman - Colin Smith** stood for re-election.

**Vice Chairman – Jeff Wiemer** stood for re-election.

**Secretary – Helen Forrester** stood for re-election.

**Treasurer - Phil Rutt** stood for re-election.

**4 other Members** stood for re-election – **Trevor Templeman, Roger Hansard, Graham Amphlett and Dave Cockerill**

It was proposed to vote en-masse for the re-election of the whole committee and this was approved.

**Proposed: R Larbey**

**Seconded: D Cox**

#### **7) Any Other Business**

Thanks for the committee members for their work over the last year.

R Kirby asked if we could change the need for a paper bonfire permit each year. Committee agreed to add a link to the website for permission to be requested that way. J Wiemer to set this up.

Gate by Tidbury Close doesn't open properly. Committee to look at it to see if it needs replacing.

#### **8) Date and Time of next AGM Meeting**

Date of 2019 AGM was proposed as Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.30pm if hall is available.

**Meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.**