

Cotteslowe Allotment Association

Annual General Meeting Minutes, 24th Sept 2023

Present: Hilary & Harry Fletcher, Nigel & Marilyn Howard, Dom & Clare Honeysett, Chu Dong, Rachel Fletcher, Ian Sheppard, Diana Young, Helen & Rob Davies, Deborah Crawshaw, Bob Findlay, Matt Todd, Phil, Esther & Christian Becker, & Carrie Dodd.

Apologies: Alison & Dave Chen

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome, safety brief,
2. Statement by Bob Findlay
 - a. Election of new chair
3. Chair Report
 - a. Election of new Committee
4. Treasurer's report
5. Changes to the Constitution
6. AOB

1. Statement by Bob Findlay:

Decision by Ian Sheppard to resign (secretary & treasurer) at the end of the year. Decision by Bob Findlay to stand down as Chair. Proposal that Robert Davies be the new chair, seconded by Ian Sheppard. No other members wished to stand as Chair. Robert Davies unanimously elected Chair.

2. Association Report by new Chair

See attached Agenda and report.

The new Committee was proposed. No members wished to stand as alternate committee members.

The proposed committee was proposed and unanimously agreed by members present.

The Chair emphasised 3 items (expanding on the report):

- Structure – the committee is new, each member has a defined role. The committee is new and “bedding in”, so bear with us.
- Grants and projects – there have been no grant applications this year and there will be no major projects in the coming months.
- Community links. Sadly Becki has resigned and thus we are losing her connection with Cotteslowe Primary School and our local community. We stressed the need to find an alternative and be seen by Cotteslowe as being good, supportive neighbours. Good proposal were forthcoming. Rob is making progress with Cotteslowe Community Centre,

3. Treasurers Report

Income this year was from the membership fees of £1190, annual expenditure is circa £780, leaving a healthy surplus that normally enlarges our contingency pot. However, this year the surplus was wiped out by the lock failure at the main gate. The Association retains a balance of £8750.

We explained that plot fees would remain at their present rate, however, we warned that potential changes by Oxford City Council and their stated responsibility to the site, could, trigger the need to raise fees in the coming years.

3. Changes to the Constitution.

Chair explained the rationale for the changes, this was followed by a Q&A from members. The members unanimously voted to agree Rev1 of the Constitution.

4. AOB. Under AOB a number of issues were raised and discussed:

- Compost: unanimous wish to organise compost delivery this autumn.
- Wood chippings: a wish stated for a delivery of wood chippings, Cttee to consider.
- Community organisation / collaboration: good discussion around potential options.

RSBD 26 Sep 2023.

Please note, the following will be placed on the CAA website:

- A. Rev 1 CAA Constitution**
- B. CAA Committee structure**

nb. Your generous donations to mark Ian's retirement allowed us to purchase for Ian: an engraved bench, flowers for Libby, a signed / framed certificate of thanks and a "golden key" to allow (actually ensure!) Ian returns to walk his dog around the allotments handing out much needed advice! Thank you all for your generous contributions" Photo attached.