



Pointalls & District Allotment Society Ltd

Minutes of the 93rd Annual General Meeting of Pointalls & District Allotment Society Ltd., held at St Paul's Church, Long Lane, London N3 on Tuesday 12th April 2016 at 8pm.

The AGM was opened by Paul Hendrick (Chairman) who was called upon to preside over the AGM as apologies were received from John Waterhouse (President) because his wife, Pat, was not well. The meeting agreed that Paul Hendrick should continue to chair the AGM and agreed to send best wishes to John and Pat with hope for a speedy recovery

1. Apologies

Received from Dominique Muller (28A), Ellen Fragaszy (119), John Waterhouse (76)

2. Previous minutes (AGM 18th March 2015)

The minutes of the 2015 AGM were accepted and agreed.

3. Matters Arising

3.1. Self management. Request received to publish a copy of our lease with LBB given the importance of avoiding any breaches which could affect the occupation of the site. Although our site regulations aim to ensure compliance the Chairman agreed to check out any confidentialities contained in the lease before a decision is made whether or not to publish.

3.2. Bonfires. The Chairman confirmed that the inclusive May to September restriction on individual bonfires was mandatory as per Site Regulation 20. Further that the provision of a communal fire site (plot 7) for controlled burning is for the benefit of all tenants, local residents and environment. The Committee had therefore decided not to use the permitted one day a month general bonfires regime during the period May to September

4. Committee Reports

4.1 Chairman's Report.

4.1.1. The Chairman outlined:

- Site maintenance improvements including installation of new security fencing.
- Strengthening roadway from Squires Lane gate.
- LBB still to carry out improvements to roadway south of the toilet area.
- Nursery Avenue property development ongoing adjacent to site with possible site improvements as a spin-off benefit.

- Membership records improved and website activity increasing.
- All available plots let and 16 prospects on waiting list.
- Trading shed sales buoyant.
- Social activities including barbecue and bonfire party.

4.1.2. Questions

- The Chairman confirmed that a legal action involving an evicted tenant is ongoing. It is responsible for such action in order to defend our Society. Further it is inadvisable to discuss in detail at this stage and that the legal advice received is on a 'pro bono' basis.
- Committee minutes would not be made available for a wider audience for reasons of confidentiality.
- The practicalities of operating a web forum would be considered in the future.
- The matter previously raised regarding three plots allocated as the memorial garden was resolved last year with the majority of respondents in favour of their retention for the time being following a general survey.

4.2 Membership

4.2.1. Membership Secretary reported:

- Important that members inform us of changes to their contact information.
- Seventy five per cent of members have provided email addresses.
- In 2015 we welcomed 17 new members.
- We now have 157 plots covering an area of 1,231 poles equivalent to 37k sq yards or 31k sq metres which is 7 acres or 3 hectares.
- Website received 4k visits averaging 2 pages per session and 87% new site visitors (Google analytics).
- Photographic competition resulted in new images for the home and gallery pages.
- New website links to related media and activities.

5. Treasurer's report and Accounts

5.1.1. The Treasurer reported:

- The annual statutory accounts for 2015 (which have been informally inspected by an independent accountant) were approved at the Committee meeting on 15th March and were now tabled for adoption.
- The accounts show a loss for the year 2015 of £3,043 due to increased site maintenance costs including security fencing expenditure. Current assets were £36,074 including £34,305 in the bank.
- This level of reserves is an essential contingency in order to meet future expenditure resulting from self management obligations.
- The AGM adopted the annual accounts.

5.1.2. Questions

- The Treasurer advised that historical accounts would not be comparable for anticipating future expenditure. Previously LBB were responsible for such maintenance costs as pre self management we paid rental for the site.
- Annual charges to tenants for water usage are roughly in line with our costs.

6. Election of President

It was agreed to elect John Waterhouse as President.

7. Election of other Officers

7.1.1. Committee nominations received for:

- Paul Hendrick, Ruth Hendrick, Laura De Benedetti, Derek McMaster, Paul Castignetti, Ilana Isserow, Donald Lyven, Marie Edwards, Lucien Pozzi.
- Thanks were given for the Committee's work during the year.

7.1.2. Questions

- LP does not appear on the annual report and accounts list of Committee members. The Chairman reported that this was because he refused to supply address and date of birth information required for registration with the FCA and that continued failure to do so would mean that he could not formally be a committee member.
- It was noted that the rules allow co-opted membership to the Committee if suitable candidates wish to make a contribution to the Society's work.

8. Proposed changes of the rules to allow proxy voting

Previously we notified members (by email and notice boards) of the following proposal:
The Committee recommends that the Rules of the Society be amended to allow Members, if they so wish, to vote by proxy at General Meetings and proposes the following resolution for consideration. A copy of the notice is attached to the minutes.

The Chairman explained to the AGM

- The Committee wishes to change Pointalls status from an industrial provident friendly society to that of a company limited by guarantee.
- The benefits include a more up to date organisation with simplified operational and reporting requirements and reduced annual registration costs.
- A SGM will be required in the autumn, to begin the registration process, with a quorum of 50% of the membership.
- Therefore the proposal is submitted to the AGM to agree to proxy voting.

The AGM agreed to adopt the resolution.

9. Prize for annual potato competition

Winner's cup for the potato competition awarded to Paul Castignetti.

10. Any Other Business

10.1. Marion Lamb asked when it is appropriate to raise questions for the AGM agenda. Such as concerns (ML) that current site policy is detrimental to wildlife and of benefit to cars. The Chairman advised that such questions should be raised in advance in writing for inclusion on the agenda for the SGM when the new rules will be launched.

10.2. Harriet Copperman drew attention to the meeting options in addition to an AGM, including OGM (usually referred to as Ordinary or Regular meetings) or SGM (Special or often called Extraordinary meetings). The Chairman asked HC to submit any ideas in writing.

The formal AGM meeting and topics were closed at this point and all thanked for their attendance and participation.

Presentation – Beekeeping on site

A number of members have shown interest in the possibilities of beekeeping on site. Harriet Copperman made an informative presentation and answered questions.

HC outlined many aspects of beekeeping, both positive and negative, for all present to consider. Topics included:

- Protocols and current practice
- Hygiene
- Training, education and certification
- Dealing with swarms
- Defences and flight
- Habits
- Insurance
- Risks
- Safety

Thanks were given to Harriet for a most informative presentation.

The meeting closed at 21.15



The Committee recommends that the Rules of the Society be amended to allow Members, if they so wish, to vote by proxy at General Meetings and proposes the following resolution for consideration:

Add at the end of Rule 21 (Voting at General Meetings):

“A Member who is entitled to attend and vote at a general meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and vote on his behalf. Proxies may only validly be appointed by a notice in writing (a “proxy notice”) which:

- a) States the name and address of the member appointing the proxy;
- b) Identifies the person appointed to be that Member’s proxy and the general meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;
- c) Is signed by or on behalf of the Member appointing the proxy; and
- d) Is delivered to the Society in accordance with any instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting to which they relate.

The Committee may require proxy notices to be delivered in a particular form, and may specify different forms for different purposes. Proxy notices may specify how the proxy appointed under them is to vote (or that the proxy is to abstain from voting) on one or more resolutions. Unless a proxy notice indicates otherwise, it must be treated as:

- a) Allowing the person appointed under it as a proxy discretion as to how to vote on any ancillary or procedural resolutions put to the meeting, and
- b) Appointing that person as a proxy in relation to any adjournment of the general meeting to which it relates as well as the meeting itself.

A person who is entitled to attend and vote at a general meeting remains so entitled in respect of that meeting or any adjournment of it, even though a valid proxy notice has been delivered to the Society by or on behalf of that person. An appointment under a proxy notice may be revoked by delivering to the Society a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the person by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given. A notice revoking a proxy appointment only takes effect if it is delivered one day before the start of the meeting or adjourned meeting to which it relates.”