

**EAST BARNET ALLOTMENTS AND GARDENS
ASSOCIATION
CAT HILL, EAST BARNET.**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the East Barnet
Scout Hut, 80, Margaret Road, East Barnet.
Sunday 13th April 2025**

The meeting was declared open at 7.05pm.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Mike Proctor (Committee member), Trefor Jones, Onur Ibrahim and Zenon Antoniou.

2. To approve the minutes of the AGM held 14th April 2024

The minutes of the 2024 meeting were accepted as being an accurate record.

Proposer: Worth Houghton

Seconded: Mrs. Carla Borka

3. To consider any matters arising.

No matters arising

4. Report of the Committee

Copies in full of the Committee report were given to all attendees. A summary is given within these minutes.

Events:

This year our Wassailing Event had to be postponed due to illness, but we made up for it by holding a 'Welcome to Spring' afternoon instead. This was well attended and enjoyable. We held our busy annual plant swap in May and celebrated the summer season with an allotment picnic. We held our now legendary Annual Produce Show in August! We are planning another plant swap on Saturday 17th May – please donate any spare seedlings you have – perhaps plant a few extra now! We are also planning a summer picnic – more details and date to follow.

Our first Allotment Calendar was very successful, completely selling out our first print so that we needed to quickly reorder to satisfy demand! Many thanks to Claire Peposhi for organizing the calendar competition. And now we need lots more photographs for this year's entries. Please grab your camera and send your pictures in! You may be featured in our 2026 calendar!

Work on site:

Two major works have been successfully completed this year. The main entrance on Cat Hill has been widened to accommodate a passing bay and drainage work has been undertaken on the lowest and wettest part of the site near the Park Road Car Park. Thanks to Andreas Onisiforou and Stellios Ippocratus for managing and overseeing these projects.

There have been a number of communal bonfires over the year, eliminating the need for individual bonfires on plots – these are now not allowed. If you have material to burn please contact your zone rep for the date and venue of the next communal fire.

General and green skips have been hired over the year for the use of ploholders. Regular deliveries of manure for general use are continuing to be arranged by Stellios at a reasonable price per barrowful.

We continue to hold regular work parties which helps to keep the site tidy and safe for everyone. Over the past year parties have cleared communal areas, trimmed overgrown trees and restored neglected plots for new plot holders. Please volunteer to help at a work party whenever you can.

Lettings:

At present there are 24 people on the waiting list and 22 plots have been let. Many thanks to David Hunter, our lettings officer for his hard work in managing the waiting list.

Thanks extended to:

Thanks were extended to all members of the Committee for their continued hard work. Special thanks to Trefor Jones, David Hunter and Terry Palmer for all their work behind the scenes; running the shed, mending machines etc.

Thanks also to Lewis Lovett for his work on our website and to John Hawkins, Mike Proctor and Val Phillips for their support for our Facebook page which now has 114 members. We would also like to thank the many ploholders who quietly and without fuss do many of the routine tasks around the allotment.

And, as always, our biggest thank you goes to Pat and Richard Stile for their continued hard work throughout the year. Without their tireless efforts the site would not work so smoothly and be the happy place that it is. Many, many thanks to you both – we'd be lost without you!

Treasurer's Report:

Angie Lalani presented the accounts for the year ending September 2024 and copies were made available to those attending the meeting.

Special thanks were expressed to Trefor Jones and David Hunter for their help over the year. Thanks were also expressed to Dylan Jones for auditing the accounts. Thanks also to Angie for her continued work as treasurer.

5. To receive and approve the accounts for 2023-2024

Proposer: Elizabeth Burling

Seconded: Daniel Keene

The accounts were adopted as presented.

6. To elect Officers and other Committee members for the next financial year.

The motion that, "the Current Committee and Officers be elected for the coming year" was put to the meeting.

Proposer: Don Morrison

Seconded: Worth Houghton

This was passed by a unanimous show of hands.

The committee was duly elected for the coming year.

7. To receive the proposed rent for the year to September 2024-20245

We previously agreed a rent rise, if considered necessary and this year 2025/2026 the rent will increase by £10 for a full plot and £5 for a half plot. It should be noted that this is the first rise for many years and that our rent is considerably less than in adjoining boroughs.

This year the costs of providing water on the plot exceeded the funds collected. Therefore, we will need to increase the costs to plotholders for water by £5 for a half plot and £10 for a whole plot. These prices have not increased for many years.

Proposer: Graham Kidd

Seconded: Lisa Sterling

This motion was passed

- 8. Any Other Business.** All suggestions will be discussed by the committee at future meetings.
- 8.1 **Foxes:** If anyone is found to be using poison of any kind on the allotment site they will be immediately evicted. The signs forbidding the use of poison will be reprinted and put up on the gates of the site.
- 8.2 **Bonfires:** A plotholder asked why it wasn't permissible to pile wood on a bonfire site in advance of a communal bonfire. It was explained that the pile would become too large, that unsuitable materials might be put on the pile and that bonfires are not always held in the same place each time.
- 8.3 **Bees:** A question was asked about the state of the hives on the allotment. A beekeeper told us that there had been a number of losses over the winter but that the area was still operating successfully.
- 8.4 **Raised beds:** A work party is needed to jet wash the paving slabs around the raised beds and to remove the weeds from around the beds. Some of those who rent the beds are unable to do this and Graham Phillips offered to weed the area.
- 8.5 **Gates:** The Ibsley Way gate is regularly left open with the padlock locked in an open position. Strangers have been on the site walking their dogs. Signs will be put on the gate and the nearby plotholders will be reminded to always keep these gates locked.
- 8.6 **Security:** A stranger has been seen on site and told a plotholder he had climbed over the fence. Concerns were stated about the height of the fence by the Belmont Road Car Park. A suggestion that anti-climb paint might be used will be considered by the committee.
- 8.7 **Pollution Monitor:** There has been a change of contractor for our pollution monitor and a new post has been raised. PS will find out how we can check the readings.
- 8.8 **Vote of thanks:** Thanks were given to the committee for their hard work over the year upkeeping the plot and providing community events such as the Wassailing and the Picnic.
- 8.9 PS stated how pleased she was to see so many new plotholders at the AGM.

(All ideas put forward at the AGM will be considered by the committee at future committee meetings.)

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.45pm.