

BOURNEMOUTH EAST ALLOTMENT SOCIETY LIMITED

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 6th December 2023 at 7.30pm
in the Beaufort Community Centre

Present: Lynda Clarke (Chair), David Taylor (Secretary), Hilary Sullivan (Treasurer), Peter Clarke (Shop Manager), Louisa Lyndsey-Clarke (Site Manager), Clare McCarty-Brooker (Social Secretary/Communications Team), Susannah Atif (Communications Co-ordinator), Andrew Dawson (Asst Site Manager), Alison Dawson, Bernard Sullivan (AM), John Pitcher (Committee Member), Geraldine Pitcher (Committee Member), Pauline Ruck, Alan Ruck, Graham Reader (AM), Ruth Kavanagh, Simon Kavanagh, Alan Guillaume, Richard Jeffrey, David Diamond, Tim Parker, Rod McCarty, Steve Crowther, Miles Landless, Pauline Atkinson & Pat Rodgers

1. **Welcome**

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting.

2. **Vote to Elect Chairman for the Meeting**

The Secretary took the Chair and explained that at this point all Committee Members effectively 'stand down' and that to conduct the business of the AGM a Chair had to be elected for the meeting. It was proposed (David Taylor) and seconded (Andrew Dawson) that Lynda Clarke should take the Chair. There were no other nominations and this proposal was carried unanimously.

3. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Linda & David Barron (47B), Mike & Emma Draper, Paul & Bridgette Duffy and Joan Richards (AM 1052).

4. **Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2022 had been circulated. It was proposed by Stephen Crowther and seconded by Peter Clarke and carried unanimously that the minutes be adopted.

The minutes were signed by the Chair.

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6. **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary's Report is attached to these minutes. He noted that there had been many Tenancy changes this year, affecting 52 of our plots. He also noted that filling vacant plots had proved difficult because of issues in contacting people on the Waiting List. There were no questions and the report was adopted.

7. **Treasurer's Report**

7.1 The Treasurer's report was presented and is attached to these minutes. He was happy to report that the Allotment Society is in a sound financial position. As always, the Society continues to supplement the rent through the sales from the shop and fund raising,

particularly the Open Morning and he expressed his thanks to the volunteers who make this happen. He had no desire to raise the cost of rents or Membership fees for the next year. There were no questions raised from the Annual Accounts (year ended 30th September 2023) or from the Treasurer's Report.

- 7.2 Vote to accept 2022-2023 unaudited accounts: It was proposed by Tim Parker and seconded by Pauline Ruck that the Accounts be adopted and this was agreed unanimously.
- 7.3 Vote to appoint accountants to produce unaudited accounts for the year 2023-24
It was proposed by Rod McCarty and seconded by Hilary Sullivan that the TC Group be appointed as Accountants to the Society for the ensuing year. This was agreed unanimously.
- 7.4 Vote for the total allocation of Honoraria for 2022-23: It was proposed by Stephen Crowther and seconded by Alan Guillaume that the honoraria for 2022-23 be maintained at £600. This was agreed unanimously.

8. Re-adoption of Policies

- 8.1 The Chair reminded members that the Finance and Health & Safety Policy for the Society are reviewed and re-adopted annually and that the IT Policy was now due for revision under the 3-year cycle of review.
- 8.2 There was one minor change proposed to the Finance Policy. Although the individual accountant had not changed, Reid Paget York had merged into TC Group. This was noted and approval proposed by Peter Clarke, seconded by Andrew Dawson and agreed unanimously.
- 8.3 There were no changes proposed to the Health and Safety Policy. Approval was proposed by Rod McCarty and seconded by Louisa Lindsey-Clarke and agreed unanimously.
- 8.4 There were minor 'typo' corrections to the IT Policy. Approval was proposed by Andrew Dawson and seconded by Susannah Atif and agreed unanimously.

All Society Policies are available to view on the Website and copies can be obtained on request from the Secretary.

9. Proposed Change to the Bye Laws

The Chair read the proposed amendment to Para 4.7 – Water Supply to include the rules to permit ponds on allotment sites.

The Secretary explained that there was currently no restriction in our rules relating to the installation of ponds. This proposed amendment was intended to put limits on the size, location and construction of ponds to provide water for wildlife on our plots whilst minimising dangers to all site users.

There was a debate regarding the pros and cons of allowing ponds on the allotment plots with some members stating that they knew insufficient about some of the potential impacts raised, in particular whether "ponds" being standing water would attract mosquitoes. To assess the strength of feeling on either side the Chair moved to a vote, with the following result:

In favour of the proposal – 11

Against the proposal – 8

Abstaining – 5

The Chair stated that as there was an insufficient majority in favour, the proposal would be put on hold, pending further research into the issues raised as concerns and a brief summary would be added to a questionnaire seeking opinions on a number of different

matters. This would be issued in the New Year and lead to a broader discussion involving a wider population of the Membership. This meant that ponds, or similar, were not restricted until the situation is resolved.

10. **Looking Forward to 2024**

The Chair said that we are looking forward to 2024 and intend to gain greater involvement from our members over a range of topics. Views will be gained via the aforementioned questionnaire, to be circulated early in 2024, covering topics such as:-

- a) Shop opening times and days;
- b) Communications;
- c) Social Events, noting that some Societies meet more frequently than we do;
- d) Stock held in the shop and our prices;
- e) The issue of ponds.

The Chair stated that very popular social events such as the Sunday bacon butty mornings and the Tuesday chats would be continued and attendance encouraged.

The Chair reiterated the need for Members to let us know if they change e-mail addresses, phone numbers or move house so that we are able to keep our records up to date.

The Chair also said that a small number of copies of the Quarterly Newsletter would be produced in a larger format and left in the Communal area for members to read.

The Chair reported that progress with the new lease had been very slow with little or no progress over the last year. Whilst it is understood that with all the issues being dealt with within BCP Council, the matter of our lease is low priority, it was important for BEAS and other Societies in our group to have this matter settled. She is in regular touch with the BCP Council Allotments Officer and this will continue in 2024.

11. **Election of Committee for 2023-24**

The Chair read out the list of names of those standing for election for 2023. Nominations had been received from existing Committee members (Susannah Atif, Lynda Clarke, Peter Clarke, Andrew Dawson, Louisa Lyndsey-Clarke, Clare McCarty-Brooker, John Pitcher, Geraldine Pitcher Hilary Sullivan and David Taylor). Simon Kavanagh had also been nominated. The Chair stated that since the nominations were less than the maximum number for the committee, the members were being asked to vote for the candidates en bloc.

It was proposed by Rod McCarty and seconded by Steve Crowther that the Committee applicants be voted in en-bloc. This was agreed unanimously.

Hilary Sullivan pointed out that any future new Treasurer or Secretary must, under existing FCA rules, have been a member of the Committee for at least 12 months. It was confirmed that this had been noted by the Committee.

12. **Any Members Items for Discussion**

12.1 There were no items raised.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Following the closure of the meeting, the Secretary announced the Competition Winners. Unfortunately, only David Taylor was present to receive his trophy which was duly presented.

First Place	Paul & Brigitte Duffy	Plot 5
Second Place	David Taylor	Plot 95
Third Place	Diane Cavallero	Plot 47A & 102A
Best Newcomer	Paul & Lisa Gray	Plot 20B

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