



CAPEL ST MARY

ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to R.H.S & NAS
President Steve Baker
www.capelallotments.co.uk

Capel St Mary Allotments Association Annual General Meeting - Sunday 23 April 2023

31 people attended the meeting

Charles Heath welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting of the Capel St Mary Allotments Association.

2022 was a very busy year and so much was achieved last year when we were at last free from lockdown restrictions and no longer had meetings via the dreaded Zoom.

From the various reports from the committee members you will see what has been achieved eg improvements to the polytunnel, new water points installed, security lights erected, a de-luxe new mower shed, a new electric mower to name just a few.

Charles acknowledged the support the Allotments Association has, as tenants, from our landlord the Parish Council. We have 2 meetings a year with the Parish Council Allotment Management Committee, one in April which includes a Site visit by councillors and another in October to discuss and agree the Budget for the following year.

In brief the Parish Council finances the equipment and materials necessary to maintain the Site whilst the Allotments Association provides the labour to keep our site one of the best in the County.

An extra special project is now taking place in erecting a new animal proof fence around the whole allotment site. This has been provided by the Parish Council. Charles Thanked Chris Matthews, Chairperson of the Parish Council, for joining us for the meeting.

Several Committee Members changed last year and all have been tip top in taking on their new duties.

Activities have seen high Hut sales, high demand for potatoes and Kings Seeds, a wonderful Village Show in September, an excellent IT system and website, continued maintenance of the site, growing seedlings in the polytunnel and continued membership of the Suffolk Society of Allotments.

The format of the AGM will follow that of previous years. Please raise any questions you may have under item 5 on the agenda or under general discussion, item 8.

As is normal for the AGM our President takes the chair for the meeting. Charles Heath welcomed Steve Baker.

1. President's Address

The President welcomed everyone to the AGM. He congratulated all for their work on site, despite the challenging weather during last summer with the long, dry spells and for ensuring the Association goes from strength to strength. It was good to see so many at the Work In which ensures our site continues to look in such good condition and fortunately the rain held off long enough to complete most tasks. Steve thanked the Parish Council for their support which was second to none. He wished all a successful season and said he considered it to be a privilege and an honour to continue to be our President.

2. Minutes of 2022 AGM

The minutes were displayed on the Hut notice board and circulated by email.
It was proposed to adopt them as an accurate record of the meeting.

Proposer Martyn Dowsett Seconder Peter Frost

Passed unanimously

3. Matters Arising

The matter of the safe disposal of pesticides / chemicals was raised as still awaiting a response. ML will follow up and TS reported that there is a notice regarding this on the Hut notice board with details of a link to follow for more info.

4. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts for 2015

Geoff Cox, Treasurer, had produced the report of the accounts and thanked Malcolm Fenn for completing the audit advising the figures in the report were exactly as the audited accounts. GC offered to explain any points from the sheet. A question was asked why there was no charge for water and GC explained this was the responsibility of the Parish Council. It was proposed to adopt the accounts

Proposer Sally French Seconder Mark Russ.

Passed unanimously

5. Questions to Executive Officers and Committee Members on their reports. Please see reports in AGM notice, also general discussion under item 8

- The Committee was asked if there were any alternatives to plastic netting as this degrades and breaks up. Currently there is nothing available in the hut and one suggestion was to use wire netting.
- Should netting be placed in blue or black bin? DS advised it should go in black bin as it can block up machinery in recycling centres if placed in blue bins.

6. Proposals (if any)

There were no proposals.

7. Election of Officers, Committee and Auditor

Steve Baker, President, introduced this item. All current members have agreed to serve the Capel St Mary Allotments Association in the capacities as shown:

Chairman	Charles Heath	General Secretary	Tara Smith
Treasurer	Geoff Cox	Stores Manager	Dennis Smith
Site Manager	Martin Leech	Seed Scheme Mgr	Phil Hickley
Membership Sec	Geoff Cox	Show Secretary	Wendy Russell

All the above to be Ex-Officio members of the General Committee, which shall also include David Armitage, Angie Armitage, Martyn Dowsett and Rob Birnie

SB read out the names and positions of committee members and asked them to identify themselves.

It was proposed to vote them in en bloc

Proposer Isla Budgen Seconder Philippa Brandon

The vote was carried unanimously

Malcolm Fenn was proposed as Auditor

Proposer Sally French Seconded Mark Russ

The vote was carried unanimously

8. General Discussion

- Pest Control – Peter Frost has send information to Committee as we may need to review this on site to comply with current regulations.
- Would the Hut be opening on 6th May (Coronation Day) Polytunnel – It was agreed that it would.
- Bonfires – would the communal bonfire be reinstated. It was agreed it would not as had been abused in the past but ploholders can have bonfires on their own plots but should be considerate of other ploholders, wind directions etc. Guidelines will be issued again as to timings etc.
- Could we purchase incinerators to use on site – DS explained there were already two available for use.
- Could we keep a table up in the polytunnel for people to use to pot up seeds/ plants – agreed to do so.
- Road planings – these were virtually solid so meant difficult to break up before placing on site. Could these be made ready for work in's in future.
- Future Events
 - Village scarecrow event 22nd – 25th June
 - Kings Seeds Trip 22nd June
 - Picnic on the Plot Saturday 29th July
 - Village Show 2nd & 3rd September
 - Autumn Work In Sunday 22nd October

9. Any Other Business

- A thank you was also extended to Eddie Cox for organising the raffle and Angie Armitage, Sue Whybrow, Di Leech and Wendy Alcock for the refreshments.

The meeting closed at 12.40 pm