

Minutes of the COMAS AGM

Tuesday 23rd November 2021, 19:00hrs,
Brunswick Church

Present

Gordon Flear	<i>Treasurer</i>
Ian Jamieson	<i>Resident</i>
Margaret Jamieson	<i>Secretary</i>
Martin Toal	<i>Chair</i>
Mireille Oyewole	<i>Plot Holder</i>
Salih Ayan	<i>Committee</i>
Tom Milligan	<i>Resident</i>
Zoe Hopkins	<i>Committee</i>

Apologies

Katrina Keane	<i>MCC Ardwick Neighbourhood Team</i>
Neal Roberts	<i>Plot Holder</i>
Sharon Thomas	<i>S4B</i>

1. Reports

- a. Martin opened the meeting after waiting until 19:15hrs to start in case there were any latecomers. During this time people had time to read the Chair and Treasurer's reports.
- b. The Chair's report highlighted achievements over the year, including the finalisation of the Electricity project; the creation of the pond; the improvements to the Portacabin; additions to the Cray Walk community garden and the Window Box project.
- c. Gordon then explained the financial position. We finished the financial year with a surplus of £1,686.92, of which £1,327.76 was for restricted and £359.16 for unrestricted funds.

2. Future Plans

- a. Two themes for the year would be to make more use of volunteers and to increase rainwater use instead of using mains water.
- b. It was agreed that a noticeboard on the front fence to advertise events would be beneficial.
- c. We queried about how many residents actually realised where the allotments were. It was decided that Gordon could put out a noticeboard on the corner of the church with Brunswick Street on days when events were held to direct people to the allotments.

- d. It was agreed that we needed more publicity for future meetings and events. Sharon to be asked if S4B could put up posters in the high-rise blocks and maisonettes to advertise events.
- e. Martin mentioned that a plot holder had asked about seats on a plot. It was felt as long as it was not affecting access to other plots or borders, this was permitted.
- f. The ramp to the Portacabin is due to be installed in the near future and the access to the Portacabin was discussed. some people felt uncomfortable about every plot holder having a key. It was suggested that a Key-Safe could be the answer so plot holders could still access the Portacabin facilities.
- g. Discussion took place on how to spend the remaining part of the TransPennine grant. It was suggested that we investigate if we could plant berried shrubs around the estate to encourage birds (especially songbirds). Tom stated he intended to construct bird boxes to put up at appropriate places around the area to encourage small bird into the centre of the estate from the outskirts.
- h. Tom expressed concern about the compost attracting slugs If we can encourage blackbirds and hedgehogs into the allotment, they will help to reduce numbers.
- i. We also spoke about trying to make more use of rainwater to use on allotments.
- j. We intend to invite *Sow the City* to hold workshops on the site, preferably on Saturdays.

3. Elections

Due to the lack of meeting attendees, it was impracticable to hold a representative election. Rather than dissolve the society, the present Committee agreed to continue in their various roles. Tom and Ian said they wished to join the Committee, and this was agreed.