

Minutes of the WAM AGM

Held Friday 13th September 2019

The presentation slides (q.v.) contain the agenda and information provided with it. These notes are in addition to it.

In excess of 44 people attended, with apologies from John Baker, Bill Geddes, Jeff Jones, Steve Jowett, Suzy Young, Catherine Atwood, Simon Booth, Naomi Higson, Lyn Hill, David Marshall, Graham and Gerry Harvey, Ed Crouch, Steve McKenna and Philippa Reece.

The chair advised that no one from Adur-Worthing Council was present this year

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted - proposed Jack Powis, seconded John Scrace.

Motions to amend the Terms and Conditions and Constitution (see slides) were accepted - proposed Jack Powis, seconded Tony Sankey

It was agreed that Peter Hannam would remain as Chairman for the next year or until a suitable volunteer comes forward

The Treasurer's Report was accepted (see slides), which included the rent rising to £8.50 per rod for the next year - proposed Denis Chadwick, seconded Kevin Palmer.

All officers were re-elected, proposed Brian Read, seconded Stuart Russell.

The winner of the Geddes Cup was Derek Turner

Question and comments from the floor:

Kevin Palmer asked why the rents were going up by only 50p per rod

A: The committee thought it better to make a small increase, possibly each year, rather than a larger increase every few years. This is the first increase for 8 years.

Janet Robins commented that the amount under gifts seemed to be very high, and would have preferred to see detail of payments.

A: Phillip replied that he did not have that detail with him, and pointed out that it included payments to working party members.

Janet had no objection to paying working parties, but asked why committee members received a remuneration as this does not happen in WAGA.

A: WAM and WAGA operate as individual entities and have no bearing on each other. This practice has been in place for some years and only the postholders are involved.

Michael Spencer needed clarification on why tyres were on the plots and why they were not discouraged.

A: Peter Hannam reiterated what he had said in his presentation ie that tyres could be used for growing crops in but not for any other purpose and were to be removed from the plot when the tenant vacated. Several tenants at West Tarring use tyres in this way, and we would not ask them to desist.

Kevin Palmer asked when the AGM Agenda should have been circulated as he only had his 24 hours prior to the meeting.

A: The agenda was sent out by email to all tenants who receive communications in this way two weeks prior to the meeting in accordance with protocol.

Dab Alden said that rents could only go up by a defined maximum.

A: A logic for rent increases for allotments was defined in 2012 by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any proposed increase had to be approved by the local council and then, finally, by WAM members at AGM.