

**Walthamstow Spade Husbandry Association**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Sunday 19 May 2024 12.00pm to 2pm.**

Twenty-one members completed the register: Aileen Barrie (27b/30); Ron Baldwin; Ian Lamont (50); Beatrice Campbell (23); Angie Vizard (88); Makeila Estelle (88); Terry Day (41); Shelagh Todd (83); Graeme Andrews (20); Helen Brett (50); Jaki Cole-Kelly (95); Alan Kelly (95); Gabriel Gottlieb (91a); Marian Head (66); Wendy McLean (75); Peter Prowse (86); Peter Simpson (33/36); Paul Walker (62/64); Cheryl Cox (91b); Miranda Sheild Johansson (48); Toby Jury-Morgan (48).

Introductions:

Nine committee members were present – Angie Vizard (AV) (Chairperson), Terry Day (TD) (Treasurer), Ian Lamont (IL) (Secretary), Aileen Barrie (AB) (Site Officer); Beatrice Campbell (BC) (Seed Order), Marian Head (MH) (Membership Secretary), Makeila Estelle (Social Secretary); Paul Walker (PW) (Trading Hut); Toby Jury-Morgan (TJM)

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from, Bob Baker (41); Don Spargo (57); Sheila Curtis (17); Mike Lanchin (18); Minaxi Patel (17).

### **2. Chairperson's Report and election of new Chair**

All Committee members stepped down as the meeting began.

AV gave the Chairperson's Report. AV welcomed the members to the AGM and reminded the meeting that only Ordinary Members of the Association are allowed to vote or stand for office. The Ordinary Members are those named on a tenancy agreement with the charity. There were 2 Associate Members present.

AV reflected on the year. Key points;

- There were a few break-ins during the year.
- AV stressed that members should not keep anything valuable in their sheds.
- The manure delivery scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> May was cancelled due to the weather. The next scheduled delivery is for 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024.
- The lane was slippery over the winter. There was an incident during which the van delivering the woodchip became stuck in a ditch.
- A car also became stuck on the wet grass of the site's central path for a night during the winter months.
- The known Asbestos on site has mostly been removed. There is some more. One lot is in a deep location. The committee will continue to chase to have it removed.
- Security of the boundary. Children from the neighbouring flats have been coming on to the site. The hole in the fence has now been patched up.

- The lane has been slightly improved. The ditches have been cleared and re-dug. Some members were also able to collect gravel from a client of AB's who no longer wanted it and use it to fill some potholes.
- The lane gets worse towards the allotment end. A future work party may need to concentrate on improvements there.
- Associate Membership was introduced at the Subs Day in 2024. The £5 membership fee helps the Association's funds. It gives more people the chance to be involved.
- The only social event of was the Fireworks Night in November 2023. The hope is to have more social events in 2024/5.
- Last year was an ok growing season.
- The committee had 3 vacant posts after last year. Two of those posts were filled during the year. Andy Woolley and Toby Jury-Morgan came on to the committee as members without portfolio and have been working on the website, WhatsApp and the skip.
- Preparations are continuing for a Skip to be brought to the site this year.
- A Greenhouse was recently removed from Plot 94. It had been due to be removed before and possibly used. By the time it was removed it was collapsing. It went straight to the tip.
- A dog (not belonging to anyone associated with the allotments) was killed by a Muntjac Deer around the site. Please take care.
- We are having a Sunflower Competition this year.
- There's a new WhatsApp group for the whole site.

Election of Chair: **Angie Vizard**

Nominated by: Ian Lamont

Seconded by: Aileen Barrie

Unopposed

In Favour: 18, Abstentions: 1, Against: 0. Unanimous. **Angie Vizard** was elected Chairperson.

### 3. Site Officer's Report

AB delivered her report.

- She thanked various members for their efforts on behalf of the site and the Association.
  - Francis Atkinson for mowing the grass.
  - Paul Gasson and Peter Prowse for helping to maintain the plumbing on the water tanks.
  - Andy Woolley for his work on the website.

- The committee for all the various jobs they do.
- There were break-ins in May, October and March. AB felt that the best way to counter break ins was to make it more difficult and less worthwhile. The shroud on the gate was achieving some of that because vehicles could not be brought close to the site to allow more things to be taken away.
- Letting Brambles grow along the perimeter would also make break-ins more difficult.
- If members spot a fence hole near their plot, they should let the committee know.
- The lane is the most vulnerable. A future work party will try to put up new panels along the boundary closest to the lane. This will be a big job because it will involve cutting a route through the woods to get the fence panels in.
- There were 3 breaches along the perimeter with the new Estate. A small work party has just made temporary repairs there.
- The Allotment Manager, Council and Charity have been made aware in the hope that they will be able to do a more permanent job.
- If you see children or anyone else on site who have come in through the fence, please report it to the committee.
- The council have cut the undergrowth in the lane back.
- The work party moved six tonnes of gravel from Wanstead. It was used to fill in potholes. There is still some left.
- There has been some progress in the lane.
- The surface is our responsibility.
- Please keep the main gate locked. People can wander in.
- AB urged members to use the drop-pin on the main gate. It helps to steady the heavy gate. Using the drop-pin will stop the gates moving around reduce the distortion on the posts and help the gate to last longer.
- Don't throw woodchip on the gate entrance. It doesn't help with the mud.
- AB recalled that it's 6 years since the water tanks were redone. The system is working well.
- AB asked that members please don't wash vegetables or boots in the water tanks. If the tanks are kept clean they will not need to be cleaned as often.
- The tanks were not cleaned this year.

- The water was turned back on in April. One tap needed replacing.

AB announced that she was standing down as site officer and from the committee. She has been on the committee for 15 years, 12 of those as chairperson. A presentation was made to AB to thank her for all her hard work.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

TD made her report:

##### Income and Expenditure

- The Association's expenditure exceeded income by £2.19 at the end of our 2023 financial year. The financial year coincides with the calendar year.
- Subscriptions are the biggest source of income.
- Water Bills remain our main expense. These returned to something more like normal in 2023 following overuse by Engie in 2021 and overcharging by Castle Water in 2022 based on that overuse.
- The seed order and the trading hut make important contributions.

##### Balance Sheet

- The Association has total assets of £10,256.72. This includes cash at bank of £9,438.94
- TD suggested that this means that the financial position is ticking along nicely. We can be a bit more relaxed about small items of expenditure and we have some reserve in case of Emergency items like an unexpected water bill.

##### Approval

- TD thanked BC who had audited the account.
- The motion to approve the accounts was proposed by Makeila Estelle and seconded by Angie Vizard. The meeting voted to accept the accounts (19 in favour, none against, no abstentions).

**The accounts were approved.**

#### **5. Matters Arising from 2023 AGM**

- **Skip Hire**

A lot of ploholders have inherited and/or historic waste on their plots. TJM set out how the Committee is working on a plan to hire a skip. It would be for non-organic waste only. The hope is this will happen in June, July, or August.

- **Committee Vacancies**

There were 3 vacancies after the last AGM; Water Conservation Officer and two without portfolio posts. Members were asked if they wanted to fill posts in an email early in 2024. The two without portfolio posts were filled at the committee's discretion by Andy Woolley and Toby Jury-Morgan. It's not clear whether Andy wishes to continue. The meeting agreed to keep a post aside for him.

- **Associate Membership**

The status of Associate Membership was approved by the AGM in 2023. The proposal was *"To start using the status of Associate Member with immediate effect. The status will be administered in accordance with the Associate Membership Guidance.... It is proposed that the annual fee for Associate membership be £5."* It was in use at the 2024 subs day. There are about 20 Associate members. It seems to have proven popular and welcome on the plots where it is in use.

- **The Lane**

In 2023, the AGM voted on a proposal as follows *"A future working party should undertake repairs to the lane running from the Forest Road gate to the allotment gate."* The proposal was unanimously rejected. It was very clear from the debate the members expected the committee to do something about the lane by pressuring other parties like City of London or the Charity. The committee's investigations feels that the Act of Parliament that defines the current site (Epping Forest (Waterworks Corner) Act 1968) is not very clear as regards responsibility for the road. However the historic correspondence suggests that the Association is responsible for the lane surface. Our right to access the site comes from an Easement in the Act.

Some progress has been made by getting the City of London to clear the brambles from the ditches and improve those ditches. They flattened the crown of the road. The gravel collecting exercise allowed us to fill in the worst of the potholes. As a result, the road is slightly improved. There are areas that remain a concern in wet winter weather.

AB cautioned members that there was no right to park in the lane. It was possible to get a ticket from the forest keepers. She suggested coming up the lane to unload and then taking the car away. She was worried that parking may stop an ambulance or a fire engine getting on-site. AB acknowledged that some members had to drive, and it was best to keep the spaces for them. There are plenty of parking spaces at evening and weekends and even during the day there are 3-hour spaces on Bisterne Avenue and Forest Road. AB would also

like to use cones to get people to park on the other side of the road in the hope that the passage of traffic would flatten the ground on the allotment side.

## **6. Election of Officers**

### Treasurer: **Terry Day**

Nominated by: Shelagh Todd

Seconded by: Angie Vizard

Unopposed

In Favour: 19, Abstentions: 0, Against: 0 - Unanimous. **Terry Day was elected Treasurer.**

### Secretary: **Ian Lamont**

Nominated by: Makeila Estelle

Seconded by: Aileen Barrie

Unopposed

In Favour: 19, Abstention: 0, Against: 0 – Unanimous. **Ian Lamont was elected Secretary.**

### Site Officer: **Aileen Barrie**

There were no nominations for site officer. The post was left vacant.

### Trading Hut: **Paul Walker**

Nominated by: Marian Head

Seconded by: Graeme Andrews

Unopposed

In Favour: 19, Abstention: 0, Against: 0 – Unanimous. **Paul Walker was elected as the officer in charge of the Trading Hut.**

### Seed Order: **Beatrice Campbell**

Nominated by: Makeila Estelle

Seconded by: Graeme Andrews

Unopposed

In Favour: 19, Abstention: 0, Against: 0 – Unanimous. **Beatrice Campbell was elected as the officer in charge of the Seed Order**

### Social Secretary: **Makeila Estelle**

Nominated by: Angie Vizard

Seconded by: Terry Day

Unopposed

In Favour: 19, Abstention: 0, Against: 0 – Unanimous. **Makeila Estelle was elected Social Secretary.**

Membership Secretary: **Marian Head**

Nominated by: Wendy McLean

Seconded by: Aileen Barrie

Unopposed

In Favour: 19, Abstention: 0, Against: 0 – Unanimous. **Marian Head was elected Membership Secretary.**

Conservation Officer: **Angie Vizard**

Nominated by: Terry Day

Seconded by: Makeila Estelle

Unopposed

In Favour: 19, Abstention: 0, Against: 0 – Unanimous. **Angie Vizard was elected Conservation Officer.**

IT Officer: **Mina Patel**

Nominated by: Wendy McLean

Seconded by: Graeme Andrews

Unopposed

In Favour: 19, Abstention: 0, Against: 0 – Unanimous. **Mina Patel was elected IT Officer.**

Water Conservation Officer: **Gabriel Gottlieb**

Nominated by: Terry Day

Seconded by: Aileen Barrie

Unopposed

In Favour: 19, Abstention: 0, Against: 0 – Unanimous. **Gabriel Gottlieb was elected Water Conservation Officer.**

Committee Member without Portfolio: **Toby Jury-Morgan**

Nominated by: Aileen Barrie

Seconded by: Makeila Estelle

Unopposed

In Favour: 19, Abstention: 0, Against: 0 – Unanimous. **Toby Jury-Morgan was elected as a Committee Member Without Portfolio.**

Committee Member without Portfolio: **Graeme Andrews**

Nominated by: Aileen Barrie

Seconded by: Marian Head

Unopposed

In Favour: 19, Abstention: 0, Against: 0 – Unanimous. **Graeme Andrews was elected as a Committee Member Without Portfolio.**

There is an additional committee without portfolio post reserved for Andy Woolley should he wish to take it up.

## **7. 2024 Proposals**

There were no proposals received from members.

## **8. Any Other Business**

- AB drew attention to the collection at Peter Clarke's funeral.
- AB also outlined that after paying for the next couple of plaques there would be very little money left in the commemoration fund. A pot was left in the trading hut that people could to up.
- It was stated that there was still one beekeeper on site. A particular area is reserved for bees. You need the charity's permission to keep bees. It was not felt likely that the charity would give permission to keep chickens given the number of foxes around and the need for daily attendance.

**9.** The meeting broke up at 13.00

**10.** The 2025 subs day is scheduled provisionally for Sunday 2 February 2025.

**11.** The 2025 AGM is scheduled provisionally for Sunday 16 May 2025.

