

## Note of Stonebridge Allotment Society Annual General Meeting held in the Purifier Building on 13 November 2019 at 7.00 pm.

Sally Kerin (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. A total of 22 allotment holders, which included the existing Committee, participated.

10 apologies for absence were received from plot holders,

### Minutes of the 2018 AGM

Accepted as a true record.

### Election of Committee for 2019/2020

The standing committee, proposed by Marie Mann and seconded by Jeff Waller, was re-elected:

Sally Kerin	Chair
Sandra Moriarty	Secretary
Andy Freeman	Treasurer
Bob Gomes	Environmental Adviser
Noel Perkins	Social Events Co-ordinator
Ashley Haines	Health and Safety
John Gould	General maintenance and lettings

The Committee gave a brief description of their roles and responsibilities for the benefit of new plot holders.

### Matters Arising.

A report of the years work had been circulated to allotment holders, by email and post, and was available on the web page [stonebridgeallotmentsociety.org](http://stonebridgeallotmentsociety.org).

#### (i) Brent Hill

Sally told the meeting that KCC were hoping to complete a preliminary examination of the Creek swing bridge early in the new year which would necessitate traffic management on Brent Hill. The intention was that there would be two-way traffic flow necessitating the demolition of the dog leg part of the blast wall opposite Weston Works. This was a legacy project of Paul Carter, the retiring KCC Chief Executive, but planning permission was yet to be approved. Sally would keep plot holders informed of future developments.

#### (ii) Work Party

Bob reminded the meeting that the Committee had arranged a work party for Sunday 17 November to clear debris, which had accumulated on a recently surrendered plot. Those who could make it were asked to assemble at the main entrance in Flood Lane at 9.30 am. Everyone was welcome and those taking part were advised to wear boots and strong gloves. A further work party would be arranged for mid-December, to clear vegetation along stream and channel edges. Bob would inform tenants of the date.

### (iii) Talk on eel passes.

Bob told the meeting about plans to install 'ladders' to assist the passage of young eels into the pond and waterways. Eels were now a protected species and Bob gave a well received and fascinating presentation on their life cycle and the action being taken to help ensure their preservation. There would be no cost to the Society.

There was a general discussion on wild-life on the site including:

- (a) Possible harmful effects of certain types of slug pellets
- (b) Whether foxes had helped to control rat numbers
- (c) The effect of predatory birds, herons and herring gulls, on water-fowl chicks and cygnets.

John told the meeting that he was exploring the possibility, with Jays Wood animal sanctuary in Boughton-under-Blean, of releasing hedgehogs on to the site. He would report back in due course.

Sally said that Louise and Andrew Lees, Plot 44, had received a 'Top of the Plots' award from 'Wild About Gardens'. Louise was preparing an article on actions plot holders could take to follow her example and this would be posted out by email.

### (iv) Environment

There was a general discussion about the algae and debris that had collected on the surface of the waterways this year. The Committee had approached the Environment Agency about this who had confirmed that it was a natural occurrence associated with extended spells of hot weather – unpleasant but not harmful. Bob explained that Swale Borough Council were responsible for the waterways and it was they who had determined how we should control their weirs. The Committee would speak with them if there are any further build-up of debris this coming summer with a view exploring whether the weirs might be managed differently.

Sally would try to find out who is responsible for cutting hedges along Brent Hill, as they have become overgrown and need cutting back.

Several tenants felt that the water table on their plot might be rising and one reported that water was seeping up through his greenhouse.

### Next Annual General Meeting

As an early notification Sally confirmed that it was planned to hold next years AGM at around the same time as this year commencing at 7.30.

She acknowledged a vote of thanks for the Committee and the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.