

FAIRACRES ROAD ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023
23 March 2023 at the Gladiators' Club

Present: Paul Hopkins (Chair), Jane King (Membership Secretary), Mark Evans (Treasurer), Niki Sporrang (Secretary), Clive Lindley-Jones, David Morris, Chris Upton, Jo Burch & Simon Burch (JPH), Rosemary Cameron, Jamie Castell, Claire Du Feu, Cathy Ferraira, Jane Fisher, Susanna Gimson, Janet Hall, Emma Henrion, Mick Hicks, Jeff Hilton, Gaby Hock, Malcolm Hope, Mike Hudson, Kelly Jones, Stephen Kearsy, Paul Knox Clarke, Connie McDermot, Anne Miller ((JPH), Monica Popa, Melissa Rodd, Adrian Tennissen (helper), Rachel Wheatley, Tim Wolstenholme and Polly Woolstone.

Apologies: Jane Carlton Smith, Pete Cranston, Harry Dixon, Fiona Dobie, Jason Downing, Emma Gascoigne, David Gimson, Brian Hills, Liz Hodgson, Julia Hollander, Margaret Keeping, Clair Linzey, Suzanne Schmitt, Catherine Smith, Jeanette Smith, Jonathan Stockland, Margaret Thompson, Rebecca Ungpakorn and Antony Woolstone.

Quorum: 31 members 3 Joint Holders (JPH) and 1 helper were present, including Committee members, and we had received 19 apologies.

1. Introduce Committee

Chair Paul Hopkins introduced the Committee members and informed the meeting of members standing down and staying.

2. Review of minutes and actions arising from AGM held 24 March 2022

Everyone agreed with the minutes from 2022. There was a brief discussion on the seed swap system suggested last year, which has not really taken off. Seeds have been brought along to the meeting for the taking.

3. Membership Secretary report

Jane King, our Membership Secretary, gave her report. The association currently has 40 people on the waiting list, 2 of them for expansion. Waiting time is estimated to 3 years. This year, 12 new people have taken on plots. We have no vacant plots at the moment. The FRAA has had 41 enquiries for plots, but most were not interested after hearing the waiting time. Please make sure you keep your contact details up-to-date.

4. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer Mark Evans provided his report. The bank balance at the end of last year was £6,665.78. Our current bank balance is £9,161.52. Our income for this year from rents, of which two (£50) are still outstanding, new deposits and opt-out fees for working parties is £2,675. (See attached 2022 Income/Expenditure Report).

With the plot rents in, one water bill of £69.26 and the ODFAA insurance of £75 (150 members x 50 pence) has been paid. We expect the total cost of water to be around £600 in 2023, and that total expenditure will be around £2,000.

As an allotment association, we are now required to hold a surplus for potential big events/accidents, supposedly 10,000 GBP, which is based on the number of plot holders on the site, but because most of our plots are 2.5 poles rather than the national standard of 10 poles, we have agreed that 5,000 GBP should be sufficient for FRAA. We also hold a £1,600 liability for plot deposits, which leaves us with disposable funds of around £2,500 – an increase of almost 10% compared to last year.

5. Chair's report

Chair Paul Hopkins: As you have heard already, most of the Committee is standing down after long periods of service to the Allotment Association. Treasurer Mark Evans was the first to announce that he would stand down, and he was subsequently followed by the rest of the Committee. I have recently moved away from the area, but am willing to stay on a temporary basis to guide the new Committee. On other matters, I would like to thank Emma Gascoigne and others who organised the very enjoyable social event in the autumn.

6. Working Party update

We have not yet had a Working Party this year; the last one was held on 10 September 2022. The new Committee meeting will come up with a schedule for Working Parties for the rest of the year.

On a related but somewhat separate note, David Morris brought a schedule for care for the orchard. Several people opted to "adopt" trees last year to ensure continued care. David would like to step down from this responsibility from next year.

7. Vote on the following Motions:

a) Accept revised changes to Rules and Constitution, related to 1) banning of bonfires and 2) that new members serve a 6-month probation period

We have had two complaints from neighbouring properties about bonfires, so the Committee is now proposing a complete ban. This is also in line with climate change targets. Some voices spoke up for bonfires, but a majority approved the ban and the 6-month probationary period for new members was agreed.

b) Agree the rent for 2024

In 2022, the Committee decided to postpone the rent increase for 2023 agreed at the AGM, due to the general cost and inflation situation, and is now proposing to introduce it in 2024. This created quite a discussion about procedure before a decision was made. The rent increase agreed in 2022 was clarified. The AGM approved the postponed 2023 rent increase for 2024.

c) Working party opt-out fee

It was agreed that the working party opt-out fee would remain at £15.

d) Small wild-life ponds on plots [late addition to agenda]

A proposal to include in the rules a permission for small wildlife ponds on plots was approved.

8. Members' submissions

No members' submissions were received ahead of the meeting.

At the meeting, a proposal was tabled to create a WhatsApp group. This led to a discussion about how one would have to be careful not to exclude people not on WhatsApp, and that the allotment is a place of peace and some would prefer not to. There were also supportive voices on the instantaneous usefulness of such groups, and that you can easily set up subgroups for orchards and other smaller tasks. The GDPR checklist of things members are willing to share can be used as a starting point. Jo Burch announced that she is happy to move this forward. An e-mail can go out and members willing to join can send details to coordinator. It was agreed that an e-mail would go out instructing people to contact Jo.

Clive Linley-Jones wanted to say a few words about the planned Highgrove visit. It was organised but fell through due to COVID. If anyone want to carry this forward again, Clive is happy to support such an effort but highlighted that it had involved quite a bit of work.

9. Election of officers.

A new Committee was elected, consisting of:

Jason Downing – Treasurer
Rosemary Cameron – Membership Secretary
Margret Thompson – Secretary
Jo Burch – Committee/Communication
Rachel Wheatley – Committee
Paul Know Clarke – Committee
David Morris- Trustee
Chris Upton - Trustee

The meeting expressed gratitude to the Membership Secretary and all of the old Committee, and especially to the Chair Paul Hopkins for being very active and hands-on.

10. AOB

Three issues were raised under AOB:

1. The pile of branches and other plant waste at the back of the orchard – how can we deal with it? It was proposed that we rent/borrow a woodchipper later in the year, perhaps as part of a working party.
2. The bees in the beehive – are they still there? This was unclear. It was agreed that we need to check.
3. A communal word of thanks was extended to Jackie for managing the wildlife plot. It has become a really attractive addition to the allotments.

11. Date and Venue of next meeting

The next FRAA AGM will be held in March next year, hopefully at the Gladiator's Club.

The meeting at this point was declared over but was followed by a much appreciated presentation by Chris Upton on the no-dig approach to allotmenting.

Minutes recorded by Niki Sporrang (outgoing Secretary)

Approved by Paul Hopkins (outgoing chair)

FAIRACRES ROAD ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION -Y/E 31.12.22**Income and Expenditure Account**

	£	£
Income	2022	2021
Plot rent	2445.00	2010.00
Plot deposit	115.00	360.00
Seeds sales	554.73	
less cost of sales	498.19	
Profit on seed sales	56.54	76.68
Opt-out	320.00	
Other (note 1)	192.25	40.05
TOTAL INCOME	3128.79	2486.73

Expenditure

Water	575.24	359.88
Rent	155.84	155.84
Equipment		
Maintenance (note 2)	1306.04	298.59
Insurance	97.40	75.00
Security		
Other (note 3)	441.50	194.99
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2576.02	1084.30

Excess of income over expenditure	552.77	1402.43
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SUMMARY

Opening balance	6113.01	4710.58
Total income	3128.79	2486.73
	9241.80	7197.31
Total expenditure	2576.02	1084.30
	6665.78	6113.01

Notes

(1) Includes Compost Levy £104.25

(2) Includes Tree surgeon £432, Hedgecutting £288, Strimmer £249.98

FRAA 2022 I-E

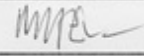
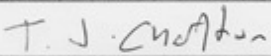
	2022	2021
Income and Expenditure A/C	6113.01	4710.58
Add surplus for the year	552.77	1402.43
Net worth	6665.78	6113.01

Represented by

Bank balance at 31.12.22	6665.78	6113.01
Total assets	6665.78	6113.01

Capital reserves

Total assets at 01.01.22	6113.01	4710.58
less: Plot Deposits	1600.00	1600.00
	4513.01	3110.58
Add surplus for the year	552.77	1402.43
Working capital reserves	5065.78	4513.01

I certify that the finances are true and correct	
	17/1/23
Signature of Treasurer	Date
I have examined the income/expenditure a/c provided by FRAA treasurer	
	17/1/23
Signature	Date