

# WEARSIDE-SMALLHOLDERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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HELD 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022, MILL VIEW CLUB, FULWELL

**Committee and Officials present:** Mr I. Hornsey; Mr J. Searle; Mr J. Smurthwaite; Ms. G. Clifford

**Apologies:**

Meeting attended by 37 members

## AGENDA ITEMS

### 1. PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 2019 AGM were circulated and read by the meeting; proposed and passed as a true record. No questions raised.

### 2. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE/OFFICIALS

**Question raised:** Clarification of current Treasurer. Confirmed this has remained Mr J. Gillies since 2019, and that he was now standing down.

#### 2.1 ELECTION OF OFFICIALS

**Chairman** Mr J.. Searle; **Secretary** Mr I. Hornsey **Treasurer** Ms. J. Palmer

**Rent Collector** Mr I. Hornsey

The meeting elected the above by show-of-hands:

#### 2.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS ELECTED

Four members have stood down for various reasons since 2019. Nominations had been received prior to the meeting; none were received from the meeting.

Committee members were elected by show-of-hands.

Mr P. Larcombe; Mr. J. Smurthwaite; Mr.P.Hutchinson; Mr. G. Arnott, Ms. G. Clifford

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## 3. FINANCE/TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial reports for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 were circulated and read; scrutiny and questions invited. Proposed and passed as an acceptable and true account.

Dis-application statement read to the meeting and agreement to dis-apply the need for a full financial Audit passed by show-of-hands.

Mr. T. Crombie approved to continue preparing the financial statements, by show- of-hands.

**Question raised 2019 statement:** Completion of perimeter fencing. Explained that this was purchased but erection delayed as access had been denied by a plot-holder. Situation ongoing and in hands of the City of Sunderland Council.

**Question raised 2019 statement:** Weedkiller. Confirmed that this was purchased and applied for localised control of Mare's Tail.

**Question raised 2019 statement:** Wearside Group. This was a donation.

**Question raised 2019 statement:** Camera. Explained that this was for dummy camera at site entrance.

**Question raised 2020 statement:** Queried possible omission of payment for work on water supply (by Symington Land). Confirmed that this is correctly recorded in the 2021 statement.

**Question raised 2020/21 statements:** Queried rent collector payment. Explained that the current Rent/Collector had elected not to receive the payment since taking office.

**Question raised 2021 statement:** Symington Land. Explained this was for contracting to locate and disconnect an unauthorised water routing, and for the return to working order of two plots that were transferred to management of the site Committee.

## 4. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

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## 5. BUSINESS

### 5.1 Rent

Rent was set at £54 including water rates.

Any cheques should be made payable to Wearside Smallholders & Allotments.

### 5.2 Planned Work

No planned work for the remainder of this year. Projects will resume after next AGM in Spring 2023. It was confirmed that funds are still supplied to the society for the management and development of the site on behalf of the City of Sunderland Council.

Suggestions for projects requiring significant funding were invited and noted, and can also be made to the Committee before the next AGM.

**Question raised:** Skips. Explained that these are not currently being considered due to cost, safety, and management issues. A monthly rubbish collection service is suggested and will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

**Question raised:** Shop. Explained that this is not currently being considered due to concerns regarding sustainability.

### 5.3 Trees

Overhanging trees have been raised with the City of Sunderland Council. This has been on their waiting list for years but the Council has now advised that this is now due to be carried out. Clarification will be sought from the Estates Manager regarding ploholders also cutting overhanging branches.

### 5.4 Gates

These must be shut upon entrance and exit. (But they do not need to be locked except at advertised times and by the Committee).

The Tenant's agreement requires that gates are shut, and the City of Sunderland Council has written to the Committee demanding that this is observed. They have also explained that they will not finance future fly-tipping

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removal if gates are not regularly closed. These letters were read to the meeting (copies available on the allotment website and facebook page).

## 6. INFORMATION

**Question raised:** Unworked gardens. The procedure was outlined, including the City of Sunderland Council's place in this. Any complaints regarding unworked gardens should be made in writing to the Committee.

**Question raised:** Committee work. Acknowledged that covid lockdowns and post-covid ramifications have been posed difficult times that have affected work including e.g. holding meetings and AGMs; electing committee replacement members; coordinating site work; banking arrangements.

**Question raised:** Access to financial information by a non-Committee member. Explained that this was due to a previous mailing arrangement that will now be changed.

## 7. MEETING CLOSED

Mr I. Hornsey closed the meeting and thanked members for attending.