



Minutes of AGM 30 April 2023

Attendance: Rebecca, Carlton, Angela, Jason, Kim, Sam, Marc, Jacqui

We welcomed all attendees with apologies for those on the current committee that were unable to attend.

Committee:

The current committee stood down and were (re)elected as follows:

Chair – Tracy Bliss – nominated by Brian and seconded by Sam

Secretary – Brian Hickey – nominated by Sam, seconded by Angela

Treasurer – Kim Torr – Nominated by Carlton and seconded by Jacqui

Horticultural Advisor – Laurence Chapman – nominated by Rebecca and seconded by Tracy

Past Year and Future Plans:

We thanked everyone for funding and support, a full list can be seen on the website here <https://castlepointcommunityallotment.org/acknowledgements> - thank you to Carlton, Mashfords Gardening, with funding from Castle Point Borough Council and Essex Community Foundation, we are able to complete the accessible path, making it much easier and safer to walk to our plot. Funding meant we could buy the polytunnel, quality crop covers, a further shed, October's open day refreshments, sundries such as paint, nails, cable ties etc.

We created a website and added official documents such as safeguarding and equal opportunities policies, as well as the Constitution Document.

We have over 350 Facebook group members but only about 35 registered volunteers. We have advertised in libraries, with Find Your Active pop up stalls at events or standalone in libraries or supermarkets as well as the website. The following actions were agreed:

- Flyers will be distributed to the Hadleigh churches – Jacqui
- Flyer will be shared to Appleton School – Jason (other schools are available if anyone has connections)
- Flyers are already in the Council offices, but will be applied to be in the Council noticeboards – Tracy
- Flyer to go into Sainsburys Canvey (Sam)

We are open to other ideas and any connections you may have to ensure people know about the group.

We have a session set up with Benfleet Girl Guides for them to learn about growing, Castle Point Leisure will be having a team building session. We are in discussions with USP Seevic college groups to attend as part of their qualification, or community work towards their qualification.

Brian and Tracy agreed to trial Tuesday sessions during May 2-4pm and see the response.

We created many ways for people to get involved from home such as renovate ornaments/statues, growing seeds, painting. This means the community can still be involved if they cannot make it to the allotment.

Treasurers Report:

Based on our 1st year to 31st March 2023 (financial year) we received an amazing £2661.85 and spent 2,567.90 with £93.95 remaining.

A huge thank you to Kim Torr for agreeing to take this on by Tracy passing her some kind of spreadsheet and loads of receipts. Kim's done a fantastic job.

Our ethos remains that this will always be a free activity for the community. If there's something we can't afford, we don't do it. We will never ask for donations from attendees.

Guest Speaker:

Delighted that MP Rebecca Harris attended at our request as guest speaker. Rebecca is totally supportive of the allotment and visited many times socially. We thank her for her time today and thoroughly enjoyed her talk.

AOB:

Jacqui congratulated us all on what we have brought to the borough.

Jason offered to print lots of flyers.

Jacqui will arrange for the sack truck to be donated.

Carlton offered small plant pots and to ask if there's anything else we need at all.