

STAA Committee meeting 17th December 2024

Present: John Butler, Rose Brooks, Bill Turner, Paul Collier, Bev Spragg, Rob Shields, Tom Hackett Brown, Ron Blakey, Andy Harris, Andy Gordon, Richard Brownbridge, Moira Casey, Jim Clark, Claire Richards, Becky Wells.

Apologies: none

Tom was welcomed as a new member of the Committee and grateful thanks were extended to Ron, Jim and Clare who, although they might be retaining involvement in certain ways, were standing down from the Committee.

The Minutes of the last Committee meeting and the AGM were approved and signed. There were no **matters arising**.

Paul talked through the **Financial Report**. Again John asked that Site Reps canvas their tenants for projects that STAA could help to fund.

The Trading Sheds have had a good year and staffing levels, both for trading and unloading stock were now good. The introduction of Sum-Up card machines had been successful and sales were up as a result of the convenience.

The Polytunnel will eventually need expensive re-roofing and the rents may need to be raised to cover at least part of the costs. John, Ron and Rose would meet on site to discuss. The degraded plastic on the paths would be taken up and they would be left.

Tom will take over the **publicity** via FaceBook page and website from Jim. The Committee agreed to move to WIX, a different website provider, in order to get a better, more flexible end product.

The **Show** date was fixed as 12th July 2025 and Chris would check hall availability.

Various funding applications had been made by Moira to support the **Biodiversity Boost Project**. Both she and Becky had made Ward Grant Applications. Although preparatory work was underway, the project would be properly launched in early 2025.

Tom introduced the **STAA YouTube Channel**. A budget of £500 was approved for printing. Tom will coordinate.

Ashwood Road and Clapperbrook are full. **Cowick Lane** has a rodent problem but tackling this will fall to individual tenants. Andy H urged them not to use any poison which could harm other animals. Bev will investigate a possible humane trap bank. **Guys & Hylton** is fine. **Idle Lane** has no Site Rep but Richard is letting plots. **Newman Road** has no Site Rep but Bill is letting plots and he will mend the notice board there. **Pinces** has no Rep but are making a Biodiversity Garden around the stump of the old conifer. Their Apple Day was hugely successful and a multi-sited event was discussed. **Rackfields** are looking at green power sources for their shed.

John and Becky had met with the Allotments Department staff at **ECC** (notes attached) Becky would draw up a draft document as a standard process of checking plots to bring to the next meeting.

It was agreed to post the Postcode & What3Words location for each site, in case an ambulance needed to be called.

Next meeting is 18th March 2025 and thereafter 17th June, 16th September & 16 December. Date and Venue of AGM is still TBC.