

# St Thomas Allotment Association

## MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEETING 10 2020/21 : Sat. July 31st 2021

(out-door meeting at Pinces Allotments by invitation)

6:30pm

1. **Attendance:** 🍏 **A] Present** [*quorum pres.*] : **Executive/Officers:** Alison Walker (Chair & pro-tem lead for vacancies at G&H) | David Solman (Sec. & pro-tem lead for Treasurer vacancy) | Angela R. (Vice-chair & Local Allotment Mngr, Regent St.) | Charles Knill (Trading Manger) | **Local Allotment Managers:** Richard Brownbridge (Clapperbrook) | John Butler (Cowick La.) | Rob Shields (Rackfields) | Bill Turner (Ashwood Rd.) | Claire Richards (Local Allotment Manager, Pinces) | 🍏 **BI Apologies:** Ruth O'Neale (Web&Data Manager); Tim Snell (Local Allotment Mngr, Newman Rd.), Rob Harding (Local Allotment Manager, Ide La.). | 🍏 **CI Absent:** none | 🍏 **CI Guests:** Louise & Peter from G&H invited (only Louise present)

2. **Approval of previous minutes** - the minutes of the two previous meetings were approved (subject to correction of a name in one of them) and were duly signed by the Chair and Secretary.

3. **Guests**

Louise introduced herself and explained several ideas to re-awaken previous community projects based, for the Association, at G&H allotments - and to develop new ones. The ideas were informally welcomed by the Committee. **TO NOTE (a) | The committee informally invited Louise to draft a written proposal of how she might start-up and develop community project work for STAA, based at G&H. The Secretary would then circulate this to all committee members who would begin to liaise with her to establish all or some of these.**

Peter - He too had volunteered from G&H to help the association. The committee hopes he will fill the Let&Check vacancy at G&H. Though not present at this meeting, the Secretary, Chair and Rob S. had already met him and discussed the role. **TO NOTE (b) | Angel R. is making arrangements for Peter to do shadowing of Let&Check at Cowick La allotments in August** (Sec. to pass Angela R. contact details).

4. **Main Item - Organisational Structure**

Angela R. reported the work she had been doing to investigate the option of an 'Unincorporated Association' for our organisational structure. To date John B had been researching a company option (CIC) and David S a charity option (CIO), and there had not been anyone willing to champion this option.

Angela had found someone who had retired from HMRG. He had commented on some of her questions about the tax implications of running STAA consistent with the unincorporated option. As we are very small, it seems likely we would be of little interest to the tax authorities, but in any case could avoid tax liability by applying rules and interpretations around memberships and beneficiaries.

The committee then informally dropped its pre-agreed agenda in favour of a wide-ranging and spontaneous discussion about the future organisational structure of STAA.

**TO NOTE (c) | Angela intends to work-up the unincorporated option paper and pull together the three option papers; Claire intends to abbreviate these (e.g. in some form of 'polling questions' or similar) for committee members. Along with the full papers, this should help Committee Members make**

comparisons. Ideally the Committee would then be able to come to a clear proposal. Material also to be circulated to stake-holders.

**5. Response to Consultation for an Enrolled Membership Scheme - deferred**

On the pre-agreed agenda this was the 'Main Item' for the Committee to discuss, with the intention of responding to the feed-back received from consulates, as follows:

- A. to prepare a simple breakdown of how the Assn. spends its money and publicise this;
- B. to add consulate contact details to the opt-in database where requested;
- C. to approve a membership scheme along the lines of that described in the consultation by Aug 14th; and
- D. to recommend Members at the AGM to give themselves decision-making powers over the membership scheme.

Further to (iii) above, the committee has been circulated with papers to finalise the Enrolled Membership scheme, viz:

- 1. approval of the leaflet STAA would make available to explain to stake-holders how to apply for Enrolled Membership;
- 2. approval of the Terms and Conditions that would apply;
- 3. approval of the form for applicants to tick a list of any services they would offer to help the work of STAA.

However, the Committee informally deferred all of these decisions so as to make time for its wide-ranging discussion of Organisational Structure (4, above).

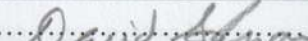
No outcomes from the consultation with stake-holders in April-May were agreed, but John B. offered suggestions for additional points to be included in the Terms and Conditions (including good behaviour towards other members).

**TO NOTE (d) | Since no outcomes from STAA's Enrolled Membership Scheme consultation with stake-holders were agreed, it was resolved (informally) that the Secretary would ask the Committee to continue to comment by email about the papers and proposals - and it would produce an outcome from the consultation in due course.**

**6. Next Meeting**

No date for the next committee meeting were agreed, but **TO NOTE (e) | moves afoot to arrange an 'EGM' (most likely in the form of an Open Stakeholder Meeting, rather than strictly an EGM) are continuing, and being led by Angela R.** This 'EGM' is likely to become STAA's next likely meeting, probably in September either at St Thomas CofE Church or the Methodist Church.

**David Solman, Secretary @ staacommittee@yahoo.com**

Cttee. signed: .....  .....

Dated: 20th Nov 21 .....