

# St Thomas Allotment Association

## AGM 2018 - MINUTES

**1. Opening remarks** - an introduction & welcome was given by *RexH* who opened the AGM for financial year 1 Oct 2017 - 30 Sept 2018 @ **8pm Tuesday 13 Nov 2018 at The Royal Oak, Okehampton Rd. Exeter.**

**2-5. Attendance** - Members were asked to sign-in. Apologies were kindly received from *Ruth O'Neale* (Website & Data Manager) & *Rob Shields* (Rackfields Rep/L&I Officer). **Approval of Minutes** - copies were circulated, agreed and signed with no amendments (paper AGM2018-1). **Matters Arising** : none arose. **Election of Committee** - All Committee positions filled by board recommendation (Officers & Site Representatives) had been unopposed during the advertised Open Call to members which ended on 30th Oct. Officers spoke about each of the remaining Officer and Site Representative vacancies to encourage applications. The vacancy for an elected Site Rep from Cowick allotments was filled on a pro-tem basis by *Ron Blakey*, but no-one volunteered for the co-opted position of Vice-chair, nor for co-option as Publicity/Events Officer.

**Committee 2018-19:** | **Chair** *Rex Harris* | **Treasurer** *Fiona Keevil* | **Trading Shed Mngr.** *Gerald Tallamy* | **Secretary** *David Solman* | **Website & Data Manager** *Ruth O'Neale* (tba) | **Ashwood Rd. Rep/L&I Officer** *Paul Riggs* | **Cowick Ln. Rep/L&I Officer** *Ron Blakey* | **Clapperbrook Ln. Rep/L&I Officer** *Richard Brownbridge* | **Ide Ln. Rep/L&I Officer** *Rob Harding* | **Hylton Rep./L&I Officer** *Gerald Tallamy* | **Guys Rep.** *Rodney Lascelles-smith* (deputy/L&I Officer *Paul Tregoning*) | **Newman Rd. Rep/L&I Officer** *Timothy Snell* | **Pinces Rep/L&I Officer Pinces 1** *Sue Therrian* (deputy, *Angela Redmond* L&I Officer *Pinces 2*) | **Rackfields Rep/L&I Officer** *Rob Shields* (deputy, *Martin Jacobs*).

*Action 1: The Secretary to ask the first Cttee Mtg of the 2018-19 session to explore ideas to fill committee vacancies.*

**6. Photo Competition (a) announcement of winning entries. Over 16 category:** 1st Prize of £40 to **Saara Vernalls** of Ashwood Rd. allotments, for '*Tulips & Rhubarb*'; 2nd Prizes of £20 ea. to **Paul Vernalls** of Ashwood Rd. allotments, for '*Carrots*' & to **Gary Redshaw** of Guys&Hylton allotments, for '*The Hungry Caterpillar*'; 3rd prize of £10 to **Molly Jason-Ryan** of Pinces allotments, for 'My Chickens' | **12-16 category:** 1st Prize to **Flo Harding** of Ide Lane allotments, for '*Uninvited Guest*'; 2nd Prize to **Leo Harding** of Ice Lane allotments for '*Gourgette Jungle*' | **below 12 category:** 1st prize to **Hazel Solman** of Rackfields allotments, for '*Sweet Peas*'.

Action 2: *The Secretary to ask winners for postal addresses and write to them enclosing their cheques.*

**(b) ideas for the future.** Members expressed enthusiasm for a 2nd photographic competition next year. It was suggested the Assn. might develop the idea and print/publish winning images in a calendar to sell in time for the 2020 year. Ideas were also put forward for making the most of this year's entries; the Secretary had costings for a published version of the entries which could be looked into further by the Cttee.; meanwhile, a pdf version was being finalised. Members suggested that the Assn. investigate exhibiting this year's entries at venues such as Glorious Art House (Fore St. cafe) and St Thomas Library.

Action 3: *The Secretary to ask the first Cttee Mtg of the 2018-19 session to explore ideas to make the most of this year's entries.*

7. **Officers' Reports :** The Chair, Secretary, Treasurer & Trading Manager each gave their reports (papers AGM2018-2,3,&4).

*The Secretary* highlighted recent work on the website, photo competition, and 'priority organisational matters' (e.g. updating the list of members acting as L&I Officers for STAA / ensuring associated insurance needs / constitutional updates). A 2pp handout was provided. In response to a members' question *the Secretary* confirmed that L&I Officers needed to be on STAAs Committee in some capacity. Questions and thoughts were then exchanged between members about level 1 and 2 agreements, the Council's responsibilities, and insurance.

*The Treasurer* carefully explained each section of the Association's accounts for 1 Oct 2017 - 30 Sept 2018 and answered questions about financial matters and the how&why of 'Projects & Events Forms'. A 1pp handout was provided.

*The Trading Mngr* gave an account of the popular trading shed operation and how it is managed; a 1pp handout was provided. *GeraldT* stressed that **members of sites without a trading shed are always welcome to come along to the facilities at Cowick Lane 9.30am to 12.00noon & Guys&Hylton 10am to 12noon on the days they are open (Wednesdays & Saturday & Sunday mornings)**. *Sue Therrian* (Pinces) asked about more prominently displaying Trading Shed opening times and *Ron Blakey* (Cowick) offered comments/help.

8. **Ideas/Plans for Events :**

*Fiona K* answered questions about the decision not to proceed with a show for the 2017-8 financial year. An underlying trend over several years had been that fewer and fewer people help with planing, contributing exhibits, or attending, the Show. *Fiona* concluded that the old format had to change; new areas need to be developed, perhaps tasting foods might prove popular ? *Ron Blakey* (Cowick) asked whether tables from allotments beyond St Thomas could be invited (*Fiona* thought this was a good idea that might help 'regenerate' the Show; she would take it back to the organising group).

*Fiona* then provided a detailed A5 sheet which explained plans for the development of next year's Annual Show (paper AGM2018-5); the aim was to publish the schedule in Feb. There had already been contact with schools. Assn. members were encouraged to talk to their neighbours & encourage each other to grow produce or make displays for entries.

*RexH* stressed we need to advertise well. *Sue Therrian* (Pinces) asked if it would be too expensive to make large adverts? *Fiona* thought this was a good idea (possibly schools would help make a huge banner?) *Sam Snell* (Newman Rd.) explained she has access to discounted rosettes; *Fiona* thanked her and will let the organising cttee. know.

**Note 1: Next year's show: Sat 27th Jly 2019, St Thomas Church Hall.**

**9-10. Matters Arising/AoB/thankyou's** (the items below arose throughout the mtg.).

- *Some questions were asked about elections, beginning with a question from TimS (Newman Rd Committee Member) about use of nomination forms.* The Secretary checked with colleagues and although they had not received any requests to require members to use nomination forms, such a restriction could be considered if proposed. For 2018/9 a simple Open Call to a deadline of 30th Oct. had been advertised to all members via site notice-boards. *TimS* was invited to help initiate further work on election processes by submitting a preliminary paper or ideas.

- *A question was asked about the complaints procedure.* The Chair advised that these are originated by putting them in writing to the Secretary who will arrange for them to be head by the cttee.

- *A question was asked about the 'Veg Box'.* *Fiona* explained that it was a portacabin at Guys&Hylton allotments where people can shelter and have refreshments.

- *A question was asked about e-mail communications.* The Secretary commented that the Assn. does not hold e-mails of members; it only circulates Committee Members and, at its discretion, sometimes includes others undertaking a role in STAA. *RexH* added that STAA's approach complies with the Data Protection Act (see STAA's Data Protection Policy).


- *Members were invited to help collect spent hops - FionaK* invited members to think about STAA's offer to pay travel expenses to any member collecting spent hops for an agreed scheme.

- *By way of thank-you's,* *Fiona* handed out £15 vouchers to L&I Officers and Site Reps.

**11. Next Mtg -**

**Note 2: Tues Feb 5th 2019 @ 7.30pm**

**David Solman, Secretary @ [staacommittee@yahoo.com](mailto:staacommittee@yahoo.com)**

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

dated: 12/11/19 ..... dated .....