

Huntley & Palmers Allotment Association

Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the meeting

Held: 19:30 Wednesday 17th April 2024 at the David Fuller room,
Radstock Community Centre, Radstock Lane, Earley, RG6 5UZ

Attending:

Sandra Christopherson	Irene Esser	Liz Fahy
David Few	Rosemarie Few	Derek Grey
Brian Hackett	Jean Hackett	Chris Markey
Julia Tredgett	Peter Tilbury	Richard Tredgett (Chair)
Peter Wynn		

1. Apologies

Harry Dawe and Margaret & Richard Cocks were unable to attend.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 16th April 2024

The minutes were examined and accepted as a true record of the meeting.
Proposed by Peter Wynn and seconded by Jean Hackett.

3. Matters arising

None

4. Chairman's report

A copy of the Chairman's report is attached as Appendix 1

5. Treasurer's Report

A copy of the Treasurer's report and accounts is attached as Appendix 2

6. Trading Shed Report

A copy of the Trading Shed report is attached as Appendix 3

7. Election of Officers

The following positions were unanimously proposed and approved:

Chairman: Richard Tredgett
Treasurer: Brian Hackett
Purchasing Officer: Julia Tredgett
Secretary: vacant – there were no offers to take this post
Committee Members: Sandra Christopherson, Harry Dawe, Liz Fahy, Peter Wynn

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Peter Tilbury has indicated his willingness to continue and was unanimously proposed and approved for the following year.

Proposed by David Few and seconded by Sandra Christopherson.

9. Membership Fees for 2025

Peter Tilbury explained that we need to be a membership organisation to maintain our tax status where our only tax liability is on interest on the bank accounts if that exceeds £100. In 2024 it was £22. There is no requirement to make a charge for membership but the current system works and is consistent with other local Associations.

Richard suggested that a membership fee of £1.50 makes us one of the best value Association in the local area, Derek Grey informed the meeting that Caversham Allotment Holders & Gardens Association offer similarly great value membership.

It was agreed that Membership fees will continue at £1.50 per year for 2026.

10.AOB

None

The meeting closed at 19:55

Chair's report to the AGM 2025

Thank you all for attending the AGM of your allotment association.

At the end of the 2024 membership year we had 186 members of the association who joined for the benefits of the association including the Trading shed.

It has been another busy year with highlights including:

- A growth in the number of members and sales in the Trading shed
- A successful manure discount scheme in the autumn that benefits members and also reduces the work involved in the spring when people traditionally buy and use manure on their plots and in their gardens
- A stronger partnership with other local Allotment Associations especially Caversham Allotment Holders & Gardens Association with thanks to Derek Grey and East Reading Horticultural Society– my thanks to John Peacock and Trevor Wilson at ERHS for their support and assistance

Annual Picnic

The annual picnic provides a chance to socialise with fellow members and celebrate the successes of the growing season.

In early September last year, thirty members gathered at the Culver Lane site for a big meet up, exchange of ideas and some friendly competition with prizes awarded for

- Best fruit or vegetable
- Best box of six vegetables
- Best container of flowers
- Best produce using a home or allotment grown ingredient

Please try to come along and join in this year's picnic on Saturday 6th September – a relaxed event where you can meet plot holders old and new and enter friendly produce based competitions.

Thanks to

Running the Allotment Association is a team effort and I would like to thank the following who have helped keep things going during the last year:

- Brian Hackett who acts as our treasurer looking after the money and also, along with Julia Tredgett, manages our website.
- Similarly Peter Tilbury who has again acted as our auditor making sure the accounts are a fair and accurate record of where your money comes from and goes to.
- Julia Tredgett who manages the purchasing for the Trading shed to keep it stocked with the good value products you enjoy buying.
- My thanks also to Rob Hine who has the role of editing and illustrating with his own artwork the association newsletter – available by email and in the trading shed.
- Peter Burton who liaises with Earley Town Council who are our collective landlord about issues raised by members at Culver Lane and also undertakes monthly plot inspections to head off issues where plots are under managed to the potential disadvantage of neighbouring plot holders.
- Peter Wynn, Sandra Christopherson and Harry Dawe as members of the committee who help steer and support your organisation and also Liz Atkinson who stood down part way through 2024.

I would also like to particularly thank all the volunteers who help open the shed on a Saturday and Sunday to serve our members and provide them with friendly service of our great value range of goods.

Without them there would be no trading shed and we have been pleased to welcome a number of new volunteers to the shed in the last year.

We need a secretary

There is a vacancy for a secretary to join the committee and take minutes of about four committee meetings a year plus the annual AGM. If anyone feels they could help with the running of your association in this way, please speak to me after the meeting or in the shed about what is involved.

I will be happy to take questions from our members.

Richard Tredgett

Huntley & Palmer Allotment Association

Treasurer's report to the AGM 2025

The main points on the accounts for the year 2024 are set out below.

Sales

Increased by about 50%, which explains the jump in profit.

Stock

No significant increase in stock held, which means that the sales forecasting is working well.

Expenditure.

We now have no major operating expenses, with the move to solar lighting and the decision to stop spending money repairing mowers.

Subscriptions

We had 187 members, compared to 161 in 2023.

Auditor and cheque signatories

Our auditor Peter Tilbury has agreed to remain in office, and the HAPAA cheque signatories have also agreed to continue.

Brian Hackett

Treasurer

April 2025

Huntley & Palmers Allotment Association

Purchasing Officers Report

16th April, 2025

AGM for 2024

The Shed opened in January with the potato season and we operated a Click & Collect for the first week. Thank you to the Volunteers who again helped weigh out and label the potatoes, onions, shallots, beans and peas to make this happen and to the Volunteers who braved the cold at this time of year to weigh out potatoes for customers on Saturdays and Sundays.

On Good Friday, we ran a Pop-Up-Shed at Reading Road Allotments with Teresa and Barry. We served 15 Customers and took £271.20, which is equivalent to a good day's trading in our shed. This event looks to become a regular event.

We continued to sell manure from the Compost Centre and were helped out by East Reading on a few occasions when we were waiting for orders. Thank you to Trevor Wilson and John Peacock. Purchasing Officer and Chairman who support us at times like these.

In the autumn we ran a pre-order discount scheme for the manure and by having members help unload the lorries and take their manure we sold 396 bags this way between September and November. The scheme was definitely a success as we only sold 21 to walk-ins during this period. We intend to run the same scheme again this autumn.

Our main supplier KG Loach has proved very able and we have found a satisfactory way of placing and receiving orders. They don't, however, sell everything that we stock in the shed and the number of other supplies has gone up to 17

I have continued to introduce new products to the shed and in 2024 these were:

- 10L Outdoor Watering Cans
- Growing Success Apple Maggot Monitoring Traps
- Growing Success Apple Maggot Monitoring Refills
- Miracle-Gro EverGreen Autumn Lawn Care

- Seaweed Enhanced Plant Growth Stimulant 2.5kg
- Capillary Mat 0.6m x 2.5m
- Widger & Dibber Set
- Dolomite Lime 25kg
- Pelleted Chicken Manure 15kg
- Remin Volcanic Rock Dust 20kg

During the year we said goodbye some of our shed volunteers, Jesse and Luke, who had decided to relocate back to Sussex and to Indrani who was busy with a family farm in Sri Lanka. Irene and Liz were trained up in the year and have become regulars on the shed rota. Thank you to all our other volunteers, some of which have been volunteering for five years or more. This year as a mark of our appreciation for what our volunteers do for the shed, we organised a Christmas present for each of them.

At our December Committee Meeting I suggested that we should look at other seed suppliers other than Suttons, as their packaging was becoming very variable, often without foil outer or inner packets. With a budget of £100 I purchased a selection of seeds from several companies with the view of making a decision in the new year. Kings was by far the best one, in terms of packaging and were not overly expensive.

Are there any questions from the Membership?

Julia Tredgett
Purchasing Officer