

SOUTHAM PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

MINUTES of COMMITTEE MEETING on 8th OCTOBER 2025

PRESENT. Geoff Farmer, Mike Worrall, Amy Woodward, Gordon Woodward, Steve Young.

Apologies for absence. Angela Farmer.

MEMBERS 102

PLOTS VACANT. 5 X1/4. 1 X 1/8

WAITING LIST. 13 Plus 18 extra-district. i.e. non Southam residents.

TREASURER. Balance £4220. Includes approx. 60% of Annual Rent payments collected.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION.

1. Completion of installation of second gate. This has been delayed largely due to the time pressure on the members actively involved
2. Extended discussion on the issue of increased use of water on site and the rise in unit costs. Suggestion that we should encourage all members with sheds/greenhouses on their plot to develop water catchment systems. When members seek approval for a structure this should include commitment to water storage.
3. Operation of the website. This needs to be updated regarding general content and include minutes on meetings. Some discussion as to the value of the website in relation to the annual cost of operation. General feeling that we could explore other options.
4. Minutes of meetings. These should be published for all meetings.
5. The significant increase in the number of members/plots over the last few years has had an impact on Plot Judging. It has now become a very lengthy and cumbersome process. We need to review the current practice.
6. The office section of the container is underused as a space. There was some discussion as to whether it could be re-purposed as a members' "Drop In" facility. This might contain leaflets and information sheets or provide opportunities for seed-swapping etc.
7. A Working Party in Spring. Following the successful activity in Spring 2025, the committee would seek ideas for action in Spring 2026.

ACTIONS.

1. Mike and Steve will collaborate on the work to complete the installation of the gate.
2. Geoff, Mike and Steve will undertake a survey of plots to ascertain the potential for enhancement of water storage capacity on individual plots.
3. Gordon will liaise with Joao Pereira regarding updating the website facility
4. Minutes will be posted by Steve on the Notice Board near the Main Gate and by Gordon on the website.
5. Explore other approaches to streamline the judging and re-focus on the main purpose of the judging process.
6. Counsel the views of members at AGM regarding the interest in a Drop In centre for members and suggestions for a Working Party.

NEXT MEETING. Date to be confirmed.