

SOUTHAM PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SATURDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Present: Alan Cox, Phil Clark, Geoff Farmer, Angela Farmer, Mike Hand, Betty Houston, Mike Jones, Gary Langford, John Mercer, David Perkins, Allison Wilkins, Simon Wilson, Helen Wilson, Amy Woodward, Gordon Woodward, Mike Worrall.

Simon Wilson chaired the meeting.

- Simon reminded those present that in 2020 we had not held an AGM due to the pandemic restrictions. This year's AGM was taking place outdoors, to reduce risk of infection.
- The NSALG have reported an uplift in demand for allotments nationwide of 45%. Southam Produce Association has experienced an increase in applications of over 200% more than the normal rate. The current waiting list stands at 35; realistically, new members are currently likely to have to wait for two or three years for plots to become available.
- To address this long waiting list, a new initiative of 'Starter Plots' (one-eighth of a full plot) have been introduced on Plot One. Additional parking space is being made available close to Plot One to cater for the increased traffic.
- There continues to be an issue with our supplier for water. Severn Trent have handed our account over to Water Plus however, we have had no bill from the new supplier. Our Treasurer has chased the matter up on numerous occasions, but the matter is yet to be resolved.
- A number of committee members are standing down with immediate effect:

Mike Worrall, who has taken care of virtually all of our plumbing maintenance issues for the last decade. Many Thanks to Mike for all of his efforts over this time.

John Mercer, who has assisted with many site maintenance issues for several years.

Phil Clarke, who has helped us forge closer links with the Wellesbourne Allotments over recent years, as well as regularly helping out with the mowing.

Mike Jones, has recently relinquished the post of Treasurer, though he continues to serve as a committee member.

- *For the effective smooth running of the Association, we are dependent on individuals volunteering their services. This year's annual bills included an invitation for Members to offer their assistance. Many Thanks to those of you who have already put their names forward.*
- Those in attendance were asked for their comments / suggestions regarding the general running of the Association:

John Mercer: was concerned that we still had four vacant quarter plots, despite the fact there was such a long waiting list. Simon explained that these plots had now been treated with herbicide. Geoff explained that some of these plots had now been allocated to individuals on the waiting list.

Geoff: explained that despite the setting up of the 'Starter Plots', some new members were moving straight to vacant quarter plots. Also, some individuals on the Starter Plots may in fact decide to stay 'permanently' on these smaller plots.

Gordon: suggested that we could coordinate willing volunteers to come along to 'Work Parties'; perhaps once in Spring and a further occasion in Autumn, when willing Members can come together and tackle any out-standing maintenance projects on the site.

Geoff: suggested that if for any reason we couldn't find willing and able volunteers within our membership, then we may have to seek professional assistance from outside the Association.

Cups were duly awarded for the Best Newcomer Plots and Best Overall:

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| Newcomers | Runner Up: | Allison & Adrian Wilkins (Plot 31C) |
| | Winner: | Hilary & Mike Hand (Plot 25 A/B) |

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| Overall | Runner Up: | Carl Washbrook (Plot 11C/D) |
| | Winner: | Mike Worrall (Plot 14) |