

Report of the TAHCAL AGM 18/02/2023

Four members of the Beechfield site arrived and were initially refused entry as they had voted to leave and were no longer members. They said that advice they had been given from NAS was that they could attend but had no voting rights and could not ask questions or make comments. After phoning Allan Cavill to clarify what had been agreed at the SGM of the 28th Jan, the secretary agreed they could be admitted to the meeting.

The meeting started 10 minutes late and an audio recording was made for the purposes of writing the minutes.

When the accounts were presented there was confusion about why the accounts for 2021 were being presented and not those for 2022. The secretary explained this was because this meeting, due to have taken place in Feb 2022 had been delayed due to Covid restrictions. It was scheduled to be held in November 2022 but due to further changes in 'Government regulations' had to revert to its original cycle in February. There was considerable discussion around items of expenditure including stationery and postage costs and ways these costs could be reduced. There was some criticism about the level of detail in the presented accounts and I explained end of year accounts statement is a summary of the financial transactions over the year not an itemised account. The treasurer invited members to view the accounts book and detailed financial records after the meeting or arrange to inspect them at the treasurer's home. Throughout the Agm there were comments about which 'rules' were being followed and though they appeared to be tongue-in-cheek the tone was quite sarcastic. The secretary did not seem confident about the application and interpretation of FCA rules.

The election of Officers caused the most debate and was this part of the Agm was the most acrimonious. The nomination of the Chairperson was immediately contested by the secretary and a site steward (Hazel Roberts). Both had dossiers of complaints about the way he managed his plot over a long period of time and that he was under a written warning. They initially offered to show them to the members present until a member pointed out it could be in breach of Data Protection Regulations. Several members spoke in Mr Joint's favour. Mr Joint explained that he had been seriously ill for several months and unable to attend his plot. Since Christmas he had brought his plot up to the required standard. The secretary claimed he had not known of Mr Joint's health problems. In the absence of other nominations I asked the members to vote on whether or not to treat Mr Joint's nomination as a valid nomination. This was passed. We then voted on whether to elect him to the post and he was elected by approx. 67% for 33% against.

The election of the secretary, 2 nominations, Mr Poston and Mr Thomas. Both candidates were invited to give a brief speech as to what they could bring to the role before the vote. The voting had to be counted 3 times with the result that Mr Poston was elected with 29 votes to Mr Thomas's 28. There was also some confusion when it was noted that the votes cast exceeded the number of people signed into the meeting. A headcount revealed that several members present had not signed in.

The election of the treasurer and stewards was straight forward. There was a suggestion that there could be nominations from the floor for the unfilled steward's posts, but as only plot members of that section of a site could vote for a steward I rejected it and said the committee could co-opt people to fill the posts.

The meeting finished at 12.50.

Mark Joynes

SW Regional Representative NAS

18/02/2023