

2021 AGM

7pm on 23rd August 2021

Venue: Barton Hall Church, Barton Hill Road, Torquay

Chairman – Bob Disley, **Secretary** – Kate Todd, **Treasurer** – John Judge

MINUTES

Meeting was being recorded for purpose of accuracy for minutes.

Chairman Bob Disley welcomed the members to the 2021 AGM meeting.

- **Apologies:** Quinta: Lorna Reed & Mr Jamie & Mrs Pam Lee, Beechfield: Carolyn & Brian Goss, South Parks: Richard Pastewski, Elaine Rowe, John Clarke & Christine Clarke.
- **Minutes from previous AGM:** The AGM scheduled for March 2020 was cancelled due to Covid19 Lockdown Minutes of AGM on 25.03.2019 were approved by Kate Todd.
- **Matters arising from previous AGM:** Not a lot happened. A couple of Court cases from previous Members and both cases were won by T.A.H.C.A.L.

- **Chairman's Report :**

It has been a very difficult 19 months with Covid19 and everything else happening. People didn't know if they could come up to their plots or not. There was a shortage of garden products at Garden Centres. We muddled through and managed to get through it. We also managed to do some Projects:

- A new car park at Beechfield.
- A large container for storage was donated to South Parks by Kenny Gormley.
- 2 new steel gate posts installed at South Parks
- Water standpipes were put in at Quinta and South Parks as per the Council lease
- A Water Station put in at Stantaway with the help of David Lane.

I would like to thank the following people for the last 19 months: Our Secretary Kate Todd, the Treasurer John Judge, our Seed Secretary Rhiann Poston and to all the Stewards who have done a really good job.

Secretary's Report :

- New Members Rules produced by Secretary and sent to Members in Dec 2019. A copy of the Rules was held up to show Members and the Secretary asked for their agreement. There were some Members who said they had not received them. The Secretary said they were sent to all Members with the Nominations letter for 2020. The Chairman said we will send a copy out again to everybody to make sure they all get one. Members could not approve them if not everybody had received them.
- **Letters sent & Changes to Membership:**
 - March 2019 - March 2020:** 47 Plot applications, 30 New Members, 21 Members left, 2 Expelled, 2 general letters and 2 Expulsion letters.
 - March 2020 - March 2021:** 81 Plot applications, 30 New Members, 14 Members left, 2 Expelled, 7 General letters, 9 Non-cultivation letters and 2 expulsion letters.
 - March 2021- August 2021:** 25 Plot applications, 26 New Members, 25 Members left, 2 Expelled, 16 General letters, 2 plot enquiry, 17 Non-cultivation letters and 4 Expulsion letters, 2 Warning letters.

Treasurer's Report :

Bob: All members had a copy of the financial report of what has been spent, which are up to December 2020, as 2021 is ongoing. Accounts have been audited by an outside Auditor. We have applied for more funds so there will be more money in the accounts next year.

Current account: £4,028.17 Dec 2019, £5,689.94 2020. Reserve balance: £2,048.11. Show account: £372.02

• **Members proposals and discussions :**

Summary of Votes taken on 10 proposals:

Proposal 1: 32 members for and 14 members against banning Glyphosate weed killer on all our sites.

It was agreed that organic weed killers may still be used & Glyphosate weed killer is now banned on all sites.

Proposal 2: 12 members for and 18 members against postal votes being allowed due to Covid19

Proposal 3: 0 members for and 12 members against relaxing rule of introducing guests to Stewards when members cannot attend their plots due to Covid19 isolation.

Proposal 4: Majority members for and 1 member against increasing annual fees from 12p to 15p per sq.yd. David Lane expanded on the reasons why he had proposed this. Chairman asked Gary Poston (who has been a Member longer than most) when the rents were put up. Gary said "Years ago". Chairman summed up the proposal was to add 3p per sq.yd on the annual rent, starting from January 2022. Motion carried.

Proposal 5: No vote taken on fees increased to 20p per sq.yd. as dealt with in proposal 4.

Proposal 6: 46 members for and 0 members against all Members doing 4 hours per year on Work parties

Proposal 7: Proposal withdrawn as it is a matter for Committee to discuss.

Proposal 8: 15 members for and 34 members against charging £100 deposit for new members. Bob explained the rationale for the proposal. The cost of skips to clear plots when Members leave lots of junk. It was pointed out that Stewards should ensure it does not get to that stage.

Proposal 9: 36 members for and 0 members against all complaints to be put in writing and letters filed. Bob said it was done already by the Committee. The Secretary explained that sometimes there are verbal complaints. The Chairman said all complaints must be put in writing for Committee to discuss/investigate.

Proposal 10: No vote taken as more research needed on connecting water to all sites using dip-tanks. Hazel Roberts, the proposer was invited to expand on the reasons for her proposal. The Chairman responded by stating the reasons why the water was turned off. In 2008 there was a Council inspection when we were told we had to remove all the tanks due to risk of Legionnaires disease. The tanks we had would need to be lined, lids fitted and someone to oversee them. It would be too expensive to replace the degraded pipes on all four sites. The Chairman reminded all that the decision to turn off the water was agreed by the majority at 2011 AGM. Also, when people join the Association they sign the Members Agreement to say they are aware the site is a water harvesting site and has no piped water. (This information is also on the Plot Application form) Much discussion took place including what the quarterly water bills costs. David Lane talked about some members who may be reluctant to pay for water when it increased the annual rent. A Member questioned the Water Charges on the Financial Statement and the Chairman said this was the Standing Charges for all sites. The Lease states that we must have a standpipe. Discussion continued at great length. The Chairman asked for previous water charges. 10 years ago our water bills for a quarter were: Quinta: £129.87, Beechfield: £9.38, Stantaway: £54.51 and South Parks: £310. The water was on for 6 months of the year so these figures are doubled. The upkeep of the piping, and the standing charge on top. The Chairman said we have to vote on this proposal. A Member asked if this was for Quinta and the Chairman said that no one from Stantaway, South Parks or Beechfield had asked for water. A Member from Beechfield said they had asked for water but were told they had no chance. The Chairman said the cost of pipework and maintenance would cost us the money that we get every year. He asked Gary Poston to confirm that in previous years when the water was turned on in April there were fountains of water coming up at Quinta. Torbay Council will need to be involved with this. Because they are our Landlords we cannot vote on this tonight and the new Chairman will have to contact the Council and S.W.Water. The Chairman told Hazel Roberts that "the first Committee meeting with the new Committee will look into this and get back to her. In the meantime can you price up what this will cost?"

If Quinta wants the water turned back on there will have to be a Member at Quinta to work out what this will cost and they are going to have to collect the money every quarter off the people concerned.

They will have to get the water bill from S.W. Water sent to them. Further discussion about the costs. There was no voting on this as costings to be made and contact to be made with S.W. Water and Torbay Council.

ELECTIONS:

- **Election of Executive positions:**

Election of Chairman: Peter Joint nominated by Dianne Thompson and seconded by Bob Disley
Peter Joint was duly elected.

Election of Secretary: Trevor Thomas nominated by Cath Thomas and seconded by Bob Disley
Trevor Thomas was duly elected.

Election of treasurer: John Judge nominated by Jacqui Judge and seconded by Kate Todd

- **Election of Stewards:**

Beechfield (1 Steward): Carolyn Goss nominated by Svetlana Jones and seconded by Emma Goss

Stantaway (1 Steward): David Lane nominated by Bob Henderson and seconded by Brendon Hext.

Quinta (3 Stewards):

Kate Todd nominated by Pam Dommet-Moss. Kate Todd declined to stand as Steward

Hazel Roberts was nominated by Ray Roberts and seconded by Barbara Brown

Pam Dommet-Moss nominated by Brian Dommet-Moss and seconded by Jacqui Judge

Pauline Cartlidge nominated by Lesley Starkey and seconded by Pam Dommet-Moss

Peter Draper nominated by Hazel Roberts and seconded by Ray Roberts

Chris Gillon nominated by John Hanson and seconded by Debbie Baker

Voting was as follows:

Hazel Roberts: 15 votes, Pam Dommet-Moss 8 votes, Pauline Cartlidge: 8 votes, Peter Draper: 14 votes,
Chris Gillon: 14 votes. The 3 Quinta Stewards are Hazel Roberts, Peter Draper and Chris Gillon

SouthPark – A Member pointed out that there should be 2 Stewards on A section but the Chairman said we have trouble finding one Steward. The Secretary agreed that there did used to be 2. The Chairman said you can have 2 if you want. The Chairman then asked for 2 nominations for 'A' Section. Gary pointed out that no 2 people from same family can be on the Committee.

A section : Ben Thomas nominated by Cath Thomas and seconded by Michael Thomas

B Section : No nominees

C section : Deborah Atulomah nominated by Gary Poston and seconded by George Green

Minute secretary : No Nominees. The Secretary has been producing the Minutes

Show Secretary : Carolyn Goss nominated by Svetlana Jones and seconded by Peter Joint. Cath Thomas also wanted to be Show Secretary but will be on the Show Committee.

Seed Secretary : Rhian Poston

Outside Auditor : Emma Wilkinson

- **Any other Business:**

A Member asked when the next AGM will be. The Secretary thought it should be in March as usual. The Chairman asked Members what they thought as it should be in approx. 12 months

- Next AGM will be held in September as August is the main holiday month.
- Work Party to be arranged at next Committee Meeting for installing the new Steel gate posts.
- Next Committee Meeting arranged for 7pm on Monday 6th September 2021

Minutes produced by Kate Todd