



# MSN ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION -AGM

**Location:** Welton Rovers  
**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> November 23  
**Time:** 7.15 pm  
**Chair** Emma Abdullah

## Minutes:

### 1. Open and welcome

Existing and new members were welcomed to the 2023 AGM. New members include:

Lorraine and Tom Dunscombe – Plot 26

Welton Primary – Plot 18a

Pete Charles – Plot 6

Deb Thatcher our Link Councillor also joined us this evening.

Apologies:

Adele Draper

Robert Farebrother

Mike and Angie Moon

Linda Broadhurst

We said farewell to:

Jamie Bennett – Plot 6

John Dando – Plot 15

Louise Smith – Plot 18a

Inishkea Bishop – Plot 26

Bob Biggs – Plot 43

Thanks to the following members:

Dave Paisey for his help in supporting the AGM and for doing a fabulous job with the grass cutting in the communal areas and driveway.

Andy Broadhurst and Martin Peter for their help, support and advice this year.

Sharon (and Simon) for supplying the delicious food for this evening's meeting.

Sharon, Jacqui and Sarah for the support as co-opted members of the Management Committee.

Finally, thank you to all those who could attend this evening.

With 33 members attending the meeting was declared quorate.

2. Previous Minutes: The minutes from the last AGM held the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were agreed alongside the minutes from the Extra-ordinary Meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023.
3. Appointments: Various positions within the Committee require filling. These include the Chair and Secretary. Voting slips were handed out to all attendees to confirm their choice to agree, abstain or object. Majority votes agreed for the following outcomes.

Chair – Emma Abdullah, 33 votes in favour, 1 abstention

Site Officer – Sarah Smith, carried unanimously

Secretary – Hayley Bird – 33 votes in favour, 1 abstention

Emma, Sarah & Hayley will serve for 3 years from the date of the AGM, Simon continues as Treasurer, his term of office is 3 years from 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023.

Co-opted members – Sharon Melling (Social Events) and Jacqui Cobban (IT and Website). Thanks were given to Sarah for standing in as a co-opted member and for supporting the committee.

4. Chairs Report: Copies of the Chairs report can be found on the Allotment Associations website.
5. Finance Report: Copies of the Finance report can be found on the Allotment Associations website. Many thanks to our Independent Auditor, Mike Carne, for producing the report which was adopted at the AGM.
6. Membership of the National Allotment Society: The various benefits of joining the NAS are, quarterly free magazine for every 10 members and a quarterly electronic newsletter. Admission to liability insurance per affiliate member. Mail order of discounted seeds, up to a 40% saving. Access to horticultural advice.

Further details are available on the website, the Committee will determine what criteria needs to be met and consider any admin input required to gain membership. Such as keeping allotment names up to date etc. Subscription to NAS will provide support with potential TC issues. They can provide legal advice, especially any arising from or around the Tenancy Agreement which is due to renew next year. Payment can be taken from the current funds for this year. Next year's subscription can be reviewed, and continual membership can be revisited and voted upon. The majority of association members agreed in favour of joining, Simon to investigate further with a view to pursuing.

7. Compost Toilet: Deb Thatcher provided details, which Simon handed out for information. There could be a grant available to fund a toilet. Items to be considered are location, any environmental implications, and sanctions. Is planning permission required? Would a maintenance schedule be required etc. The Committee will research and return the findings. Deb is happy to help with a grant application. Details to be loaded on the website.
8. Social Activity: Sharon invited members to consider a New Years social gathering. Skittles was suggested and can hopefully be accommodated at Welton Rovers. Sharon encouraged attendees to get in touch with ideas for outings and events in the future. Suggestions included plant sales and seed swaps.

Please contact Sharon (Plot 43) with any proposals.

9. AOB:

Rats – There is still an issue with rats on the allotments. Committee to report findings to the TC. They have been seen under the top water tank and in the property next to the allotments where chickens are being kept. Tenants should not carry out any measures to control vermin unless told to do so.

Bills for plots – Everyone has been contacted and the process of collecting payment for each plot is underway.

Garden Centre Discount – Norton Green Garden Centre have been approached and can potentially provide the association with up to 10% discount on items. Cards will need issuing, so a review of current contacts details for all members will be required.

Plots – Members were encouraged to contact the committee should they feel they are struggling with the size of their plot and would like to either half/relocate to a smaller plot. This activity is already taking place and seems to benefit those involved.

Tenancy Agreement – A review and update is required. Once the agreement is finalised this will need re-signing by members. Another reason for keeping contact details up to date.

Slugs – A member has struggled with the number of slugs this year. Association needs to consider environmental issues before allowing any pesticides to be used. More humane methods were discussed and suggested.

Unkept green space – There is an area on unkept land located at the top of the allotment area, alongside the main road. Several proposals were made on how to maintain or remove the overgrown plants/weeds. The committee will investigate by the Spring on how best to resolve the issue.

Pathways – Several concerns were raised and discussed. Mainly the issue of who's responsibility it is to cut the grass on the pathways and borders of each plot. Communal pathways could be maintained by an outside source. The committee can investigate obtaining quotes to see how much this would cost routinely. This could be costly and we'd all have to pay.

The Tenancy Agreement states plot holders are responsible for their borders. Many suggestions were made surrounding different options to plot holders on what can be managed/undertaken to resolve the issue. The association agreed by voting to set a date for all members to be made aware of their responsibility to maintain their borders. Committee agreed to supply the tools required to support with this activity. A follow up and site inspection will be performed by the committee and those plots in breach will be notified. The committee will also investigate if there are any minimum requirements to be upheld from a council perspective. It was agreed to carry out a one-off cut.

Sharing Shed – This idea was proposed to enable everyone to share surplus veg and seeds. Dumping of unwanted materials etc is a concern. The committee will investigate supplying a separate area/sheltered table to be made available and/or a review of potential storage space within the communal the shed will be carried out.

Meeting concluded at 8.55pm

Signed & Dated

Chair – Emma Abdullah

Action No	Description	Owner	Status
23/1	Chairs report to be added to website	Emma?	Open
23/2	Treasurers report to be added to website	Simon	Open
23/3	Details of NAS membership to be made available to members	Simon	Open
23/4	Compost Toilet information to be added to website	Simon	Open
23/5	Investigate CT requirements for installation and maintenance	Sarah	Open
23/6	Return findings of CT investigation to members	Sarah	Open
23/7	Report rat infestation to TC	Emma	Open
23/8	Review, propose and agree plan for the overgrown area at the top of the site	Sarah	Open
23/9	Source quotes for grass cutting of the communal walkways/areas	Simon	Open
23/10	Organise membership cards for use at Norton Green Garden Centre	Simon / Emma	Open
23/11	Review Tenancy Agreement and tweak where necessary. Members to re-sign	All	Open
23/12	Research into any TC requirements for plot/border maintenance	Emma	Open
23/13	Review available space in the current communal shed for a 'sharing' area or create one.	Sarah	Open
23/14	Purchase tools to maintain edges & pathways	Sarah / Simon	Open