

# WEAR SIDE-SMALLHOLDERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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2021/2022

HELD 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023, MILL VIEW CLUB, FULWELL

**Committee and Officials present:** Mr I. Hornsey; Mr. P. Hutchinson; Mrs J. Palmer;  
Mr P. Larcombe; Mr G. Arnott

**Apologies:** Mr J. Searle; Mr J. Smurthwaite; Ms. G. Clifford

Meeting attended by 26 members

## AGENDA ITEMS

### 1. PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were circulated and read by the meeting; proposed and passed as a true record.

**Question raised:** Re. 2020-21 statement, had the £8000 waiting for banking been included, as this is shown on banking receipts but is not itemised in the financial statement? Re. financial statements provided at the previous AGM; was a grant from the Community Chest included, as not itemised. Both questions to be raised with the auditor and the AGM updated.

**Question raised:** Re. the ongoing problems with the bank account and banking. Agreed to wait until financial statement item to outline this.

### 2. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE/OFFICIALS

Meeting informed that Mr J. Searle is standing down from the Committee and as Chairman. All other current members willing to continue.

One new member proposed: Mr. J. Hornsey

Rent collector proposed: Mr. S. Palmer

#### 2.1 ELECTION OF OFFICIALS

**Chairman** Mr P. Hutchinson; **Secretary** Mr I. Hornsey **Treasurer** Ms. J. Palmer

**Rent Collector** Mr S. Palmer

The meeting elected the above by show-of-hands.

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## 2.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS ELECTED

Committee members were elected by show-of-hands.

Mr P. Larcombe; Mr. J. Smurthwaite; Mr. J. Hornsey; Mr. G. Arnott, Ms. G. Clifford

## 3. FINANCE/TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial reports for 2021/2022 were circulated and read; scrutiny and questions invited. Proposed and passed as an acceptable and true account by show-of-hands.

**Question raised:** Number of rents collected/number of plots on site. Confirmed there are 335 plots, and 10 unpaid rents last year – referred for eviction.

## 4. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

## 5. BUSINESS

### 5.1 Rent

Rent was set at £60 including water rates.

Collection will be undertaken after resolution of banking issue (5.2) and notification posted as usual.

Any cheques should be made payable to Wearside Smallholders & Allotments.

### 5.2 Situation with Barclays Bank

Secretary outlined the situation that arose following the previous AGM regarding changing signatories; bank failure to act on this properly; the need to resubmit forms; bank procedural delay and error in expediting this; freezing of the account etc. This was later accompanied by a standard investigation of the account to protect against money-laundering.

Secretary also explained problems in correspondence and statements from the bank largely being sent to someone other than the Treasurer or Secretary. This is being investigated with the bank, which has also been asked to desist.

The old account has been closed, and a new one should be opened by the bank's business team in the near future.

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Complaints have been lodged with the bank – as yet no response. Committee now looking at referring to the Financial Services Ombudsman.

**Question raised:** Possibility of changing banks. This might be advisable and will be considered, once the current issue is rectified so that business can continue as normal, as soon as possible.

**Question raised:** Clarification of collected rent money handling. Confirmed once bank situation returns to normal, the rent collector will pay monies into the bank directly reducing cash handling and possible errors.

**Question raised:** Payments to Council. Council has advised direct payment suspended until bank situation resolved.

**Question raised:** Rent payment by bank transfer. Agree to leave current procedure in place of paying rent in person, and discuss any change at the next AGM.

**Question raised:** Payment for rent collecting. Confirmed that this is still in place should an incumbent wish to accept it.

## 5.3 Planned Work

Suggested site work for the coming year was outlined, discussed and agreed, including:

- Remedial or replacement work to the car park at the site entrance.
- Upgrading/repairing roads on site (pot-holes and other wear, in particular) and installing speed humps
- Work on the main interior carpark, to clear it of dumped garden waste, fence the rear to prevent further dumping.
- Re-chipping verges

**Question raised:** Fly-tipping. Agreed closing gates is best form of deterring this but surveillance raised, as below:

**Question raised:** Possibility of CCTV/camera at the entrance: Committee will investigate.

**Question raised:** Whether Committee meetings are monthly – confirmed they are as and when required, there had been seven in 2020-21. Confirmed that all minutes have been posted at noticeboard (and website).

**Question raised:** Overhanging trees from The Square. The Resident Management Committee will be contacted.

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**Question raised:** Cars parked on site roads. Clarified this is to be avoided; but if asked to move a vehicle parked on the road for access, this should be done immediately.

**Question raised:** Unworked gardens. The monitoring and eviction procedures were outlined.

## 6. MEETING CLOSED

Mr I. Hornsey closed the meeting and thanked members for attending.