

Railside Community Garden

Annual General Meeting 11th November 2020 - by Zoom

Minutes - FINAL

The meeting was chaired by Matt Jones on behalf of the Committee and Trustees, and was deemed quorate with at least 12 attendees,

1. Chair's report on progress made during the year and strategy

Matt introduced himself as Chair of the Management Committee and as Acting Chair of the Trustees. He summarised an [annual report](#) (shared in advance of the meeting) and highlighted some of the successes achieved in the first year of having an operational garden; landscaping, creating planters, growing vegetables, donating to local food bank, and ongoing progress to make the site safe. There has been positive feedback from members, including at the Art Trail opening in the summer.

It was noted that due to Covid restrictions during the year regular access for members had been severely reduced, and limited to a trial period of opening on alternate Saturdays and Sundays during the summer.

Matt also summarised a **7-point Strategy** that the RCG will aim to deliver during the forthcoming year:

- i) A secure site satisfying both COVID *and* 'regular' H&S obligations
- ii) Regular access for members
- iii) A clear purpose for each area of the site
- iv) Maximise yield from the garden during 2021
- v) Contribute to the Community
- vi) Maximise all short term funding available to us
- vii) Raise the profile of RCG in the local area

2. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts

Alex shared the Treasurer's Report and previously circulated accounts, and explained that the Garden is in a good financial position, albeit heavily reliant on membership fees particularly as the level of funds in reserve falls.

Alex is stepping down from his role and Matt thanked Alex for his work. **There is a vacancy for Treasurer.**

3. Extension of Membership until end of January 2021.

Matt noted that the Membership year would normally have ceased following the AGM and that members would be asked to renew their subscriptions. However, in recognition of the

limited members access to RCG during 2020 due to COVID, the Committee and Trustees had agreed to **extend the Membership year to end of January 2021**. Membership renewals would therefore not be sought until this time.

4. Structure of RCG and roles

Matt summarised the structure of the RCG and the different ways that members can get involved in the garden.

- i) Members can join **ad hoc sessions** at weekends, alongside Committee/Works Group members - for planting, tidying and weeding, planter building or any other tasks.
- ii) A more regular, hands-on, garden focussed involvement would be to join the **Works Group**, which meets monthly, to plan what needs to be planted, seeded, grown and general gardening direction and progress.
- iii) The **Management Committee** which oversees and co-ordinates the running of the Garden.
- iv) The **Trustees**, responsible for ensuring that the RCG carries out its functions as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in accordance with the Charity Commission Guidelines, meets its purpose, and ensures it provides benefit to the location/community it serves.

4. Election and Reinstatement of Trustees

The formal business of the meeting was to elect new Trustees for the forthcoming year. As per the Constitution, one third of the Trustees, as defined by their length of service, had to resign: Matt Jones, Druid Fleming, and Amanda Waite

Amanda and **Matt** stood again were duly re-elected – seconded by Caroline & Kay

Ailbhe Phelan, Kay Trotter and **Jane Crees** were proposed and elected as new Trustees – seconded by Caroline and Amanda.

Patricia Smith, Kate Fletcher and **Alex Yedigiaroff** continue as Trustees

In addition, **Jane** was elected as trustee and **Chair of Trustees** – seconded by Caroline & Kay

Updated List of Trustees from November 2020

1. Amanda Waite
2. Caroline Gridley
3. Matt Jones

4. Patricia Smith
5. Alex Yedigaroff
6. Kate Fletcher
7. Ailbhe Phelan
8. Kay Trotter
9. Jane Crees - Chair of Trustees

5. Management Committee vacancies

- a. Clare is stepping down from the Comms role – Matt, on behalf of committee and trustees thanked her for her role.
- b. Fionnuala, volunteered to take up the role of Comms, with a handover from Clare.
- c. Ailbhe Phelan volunteered to join the Management Committee

The committee now comprises;

1. Matt Jones - Chair
2. Druid Fleming
3. Ailbhe Phelan
4. Caroline Gridley - Secretary
5. Amanda Waite
6. Kay Trotter
7. Martin York
8. Jane Crees
9. Fionnuala Barrett - Communications/PR/Fund Raising
10. **Vacant position for Treasurer.**

Matt thanked all the Committee, Works Group, Trustees, Volunteers and members for all their contributions both in and away from the garden during the last year. In particular, thanks to Lynn Allardyce for her gardening expertise, advice, and considerable time and devotion to the Garden during the year, and to Martin York for sterling and often painstaking efforts over the past 2 years extracting money from Veolia grants. Both Lynn and Martin's achievements had been recognised by the Committee earlier in the year but are noted here for the record.

6. Any Other Business

- Confirmation that Committee to meet every 2nd Wednesday of the month
- Garden to be open on Saturdays for members, rather than Saturday/Sunday
- Martin and Druid repairing shed roof
- Kay to approach Junkwise for quote to remove rubbish on far side of the garden. Comparative quotes to be gathered.
- Veolia to provide planks and compost

Meeting Closed