

PRETORIA ROAD ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 5th September 2026

At Pretoria Road Site - 10.15am

Committee Members Present

Claire Nicholl (CN) - Chair
Douglas Blackwell (DB) - Secretary
Mark Hall (MHa) - Treasurer
Mary Hayward (MH) - Minute Secretary
Chris Rowell (CR)
Jenny Richardson (JR)
Mia Smart (MSm)
Libby Owen (LO)
Rob Martinique (RM)
Richard Pruett (RP)
Jenny Richardson (JR)

Apologies: Mike Stinchcomb (MS)

Plot Holders Present

E Phillips
V Nevescilian
S D'Rozario
R Fussell
D Bowden
S Blackwell
D Powell
P Ashman
D Romero
A Dommett
A Crane
M Taylor
K Taylor

Chair, CN opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to everyone.

ITEM 1: The Minutes of 2025 AGM were adopted and signed by DB

ITEM 2: CHAIR'S REPORT

CN acknowledged that it had been a challenging year for plot holders with the exceptionally hot and dry weather. She acknowledged that increased water use has become a concern and identified the need to develop a long term water management plan.

CN outlined and celebrated many of the projects that had taken place during the year including, repair and maintenance of the water stations, the wildlife area and new path around it, a donation of new chairs for the kitchen area, painting of the kitchen and bathrooms and a very successful gardening club with children from local schools.

CN thanked those members who had supported on 'Volunteer Days' and helped with tasks such as weeding, litter picking, painting and moving wood chip.

CN reported that the Society has received positive feedback from Patchway Town Council (PTC) with regard to the management of the site and stated that it has been a pleasure to work with them during the past year.

CN extended thanks to all members for a successful and productive year.

ITEM 3: Treasurer's Report

MHa reported that all accounts are in credit. (He highlighted that a big expense this year had been the purchase of new water butts.)

The Fundraising Account Balance is £3400 (approx)

The General Account Balance is £2346 (approx)

A full copy of the Allotment Accounts will be displayed on the noticeboard and on the Allotment Website with the minutes of the AGM.

ITEM 4: Secretary's Report

DB thanked all members for their support during the past 8 years and stated that he will be standing down from his role of Secretary and as a committee member. He will continue to support with rent collection until mid October.

DB acknowledged the continuing challenges regarding climate change, and stated that we need to address how we manage and harvest water. He acknowledge that this is something already on the agenda for the committee going forward.

DB stated that, at present, the site is fully occupied and there is a waiting list of 10 people. He talked about some of the big successes for the Society during his time as Secretary. These include the use of the Pollinator grant and how it has transformed an area of overgrown wasteland into a useable, beneficial and attractive area. He highlighted the success of working with Coniston Primary School and his plan to continue supporting this project.

Doug thanked all members of the existing committee for their time and support. He thanked M Smart and L Owen, who are stepping down, for their contributions as committee members.

D Sidwell (plot holder) extended thanks to DB on behalf of all members.

CN thanked DB for all his work as Secretary over the past 8 years and stated that it is truly appreciated.

ITEM 5: Election of Officers

DB thanked the current committee and stated that all members shall now be standing down.

CN asked who would be willing to stand again. Members present were asked if they would like to stand as a committee member.

Following unanimous agreement, the new committee elected is as follows:

Claire Nicholl (CN) - Chair

Vacancy - Secretary

Mark Hall (MHa)- Treasurer

Mary Hayward (MH) - Minute Secretary

Chris Rowell (CR)

Jenny Richardson (JR)

Rob Martinique (RM)

Richard Pruett (RP)

Mike Stinchcomb (MS)

Cristina Duca (CD)

ITEM 6: A.O.B

A. Water - CN proposed a one-off charge of £5 per plot to help with the building and maintenance of water stations. (Details were sent to all members in the last newsletter.). - ALL AGREED

B. Orchard Maintenance - CN thanked members for support during past year. Volunteers requested to help with pruning, winter maintenance, moving manure/compost for orchard - CN to put a sign up sheet for tasks that need doing as we head into Autumn/Winter.

C. Future Events

Apple Day - Hire of fruit press £5 a day (24 hours) and £5 deposit

- Request for any spare apples for pressing

Xmas Wreath Making - Dates and Prices on last newsletter emailed to all members

D. 80th Anniversary - CN proposed to hold 2 events next year to mark the Society's 80th year. Members asked to contact CN with ideas and suggestions.

E. Gate Code Change - The gate code will be changed after all the rent is collected (mid Oct-end Oct). All members will be notified by email.

F. Reminders

- All plots should have Plot Number clearly displayed.
- There is a 2m wildlife corridor along the boundary with Scott Park. This is maintained by PTC and needs to be kept clear. A skip will be hired to help plot holders when clearing this area.

G. Equipment Servicing - RP stated that to service 1 rotator and 4 lawn mowers it will cost £780. The cost includes collection and return of equipment and includes parts and labour. All members agreed to this cost.

H. Shop Contents - CN stated that is a lot of stock in the shop that has been there for a long time and it is a very small amount of items that are regularly sold. Therefore, it was agreed by members to sell off current stock (at the next plant sale) and, moving forward, only stock and sell compost, canes, gloves, organic slug pellets. The shop will also take money for machine hire. DB agreed to send one last newsletter to members and include information regarding the shop.

I. Site Etiquette - CN reminded all members that taking produce from other plots without permission is STEALING. If caught, members will receive a written warning and may be asked to leave. All plots are currently occupied so all produce belongs to the plot holder.

J. Surplus Produce - Please contact the committee if you have surplus produce and are willing to share. Alternatively, leave outside of the kitchen area or take to local food bank.

K. Grass - CN reminded member that although the grass is now green, the allotment site has been VERY dry over the summer. CN asked, if you smoke, please do so on the concrete area by the kitchen and ensure when finished, cigarettes and completely out. All cigarettes ends must be taken away with your rubbish and not discarded on site.

L. Wildlife - A request was made not to feed wildlife such as foxes. DB reminded all that the current advice from RSPB, is not to feed birds.

M. Water Stations - Clamps to keep taps running must NOT be used.

N. Rent for Committee Members - RP proposed a reduction in rent for committee members who live outside BS34 in recognition of work they do for The Society and Allotment site.

A member stated that your local council may reimburse you for the difference in fees, if they do not offer allotment facilities in your area.

A vote was taken and agreed to discuss with PTC at they are the landlord and set the rents.

CN Thanked all members for attending today and invited all to stay for tea, coffee and cake.