



Minutes of the SRAA Annual General Meeting Held On 17th October 2024
Fountain Room, Alderbury Village Hall



Attendance:				Apologies:	
Trudi Belcher (TB) (for Vicky)	Plots 15 & 17	Councillor Elaine Hartford (EH)	APC	Jenny Loader & Bart Grden	Plot 3
Gordon Channing (GC)	Plot 26	John Manning (JM)	Plot 20	Richard Barter	Plot 24
Martin Crabtree (MC)	Plot 4	Andy Reeves (AR)	Plot 23		
James Crowley (JC)	Plot 5	Alan & Diana Smith (AS,DS)	Plot 13		
Andy Davis (AD)	Plots 2 & 25	John Turley (JT) (Sec)	Plot 10	Stats: 13 out of 21 tenanted plots	

Item	Title	Details ("AN": Afternote)	Action
1.	Welcome & Apologies	JT welcomed attendees and particularly thanked EH for her long period as Chair of Alderbury PC (APC), and her work to support the SRAA. JT introduced GC as a new member who has helped the Cmtee with a new glossy advert prepared with the help of his daughter, a graphic designer.	
2.	Opening Statement	JT explained that Gerry & Yvonne had to surrender their plot due to work pressures, particularly Gerry's time away from home. Therefore they had to withdraw as Joint Chairs. He expressed thanks to them for their work in the past year, ensuring that the SRAA ship was able to survive in some choppy waters! AN: there were insufficient members to discuss a successor as Chair, and no one has volunteered. JT will act as temp Chair, but will initiate an email request for a replacement.	JT
3.	SRAA AGM Minutes 24th October 2023	JT scanned the last AGM Mins. There were no matters arising, some items would be raised at this meeting. 1. Gerry had praised SRAA's role in the Community; JT reinforced this with the news that one plot is now under a Beavers' Group and another is under a Whaddon-based charity. In a recent discussion with the local Scout Group, it is possible they will take on a plot, or share with the Beavers? 2. JT asked EH to pass this on to APC, as it is not widely known. EH offered to investigate whether some funding would be available for these plots.	EH EH

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4.	SRAA 2024 Fund Report; Anticipated Expenditure	<p>1. See Finance Member's Report attached at Annex A. MC gave further details as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. As at 30th Sep, SRAA funds were £2,890.70; in year income since 1 Oct 24 was £794, expenditure was £1052.66. TA renewals have now increased the fund by £735. The current balance for combined cash and bank account is £3100 approx. b. A major expense was the repairs to 15 x fence posts under a contract with a local company. Others may require repair if they degenerate. c. MC will change the authorised cheque signatories to remove former Cmtee members. <p>2. JT commented that the prevailing damp conditions adds to the instability of all the fence and gate posts, but this is made much worse by leaning poles and planks on the fence. It is imperative that this is corrected and monitored by all tenants, in order to prevent avoidable high expenditure.</p>	<p>MC</p> <p>ALL</p>
5.	Constitution & Charter v4	The latest version was circulated prior to the meeting, incorporating minor amendments. The TA at renewal included the revised Charter. Suggestions for amendments are welcomed.	ALL
6.	Plot Occupancy & Marketing	<p>1. MC confirmed that 21 x plots are now tenanted, 5 are vacant.</p> <p>2. The new advert was sent to The Fountain editor and the local school. EH confirmed that she has printed and displayed copies on all PC noticeboards. JT thanked her for this expanded publicity.</p> <p>3. All were asked to note the vacant plots and recommend to friends.</p> <p>4. The situation on the vacant plots was discussed; they have to be worked on to reduce the growth of weeds and grasses likely to spread seeds, particularly in the Spring. Whilst some growth can be inhibited by covering the plot, the poor state of some on tenancy cancellation means it is a labour-intensive task requiring more volunteers. JT had asked for more volunteers, but this had a very limited response. This will be re-addressed post-AGM.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>JT</p>
7.	FL(A) Comments on Proposals for New Car Park & Access Track	<p>1. Recent discussions with FL(A) have confirmed that the SRAA site itself will not be affected by the plans for housing construction and new road. The planning application is likely to be submitted by Xmas, then the Planning Authority (PA) will take views about it, including from APC. According to FL(A), there has been much preliminary work to confirm the plan's viability.</p> <p>2. Changes for SRAA concern the new car park (see plan at Annex B) to the North of the site in waste ground, but alongside new houses running West to East (see plan). It will be a secure SRAA site, with a padlocked large gate to allow both cars and delivery vehicles (e.g. for compost or shed deliveries); a space is reserved for ground-dumping of deliveries, for tenants to use their wheelbarrows to move to their plots.</p> <p>3. From the South edge of the car park, a pedestrian gate will open onto a fenced track straight onto the current outer fence, then into the site on a new pedestrian/wheelbarrow fenced hard surface to</p>	

Item	Title	Details ("AN": Afternote)	Action
7. (cont)	FL(A) Comments on Proposals for New Car Park & Access Track (cont)	<p>meet the centre track. The exact route for this track may not be as shown on the plan, as we will ask for it to line up between two plots, with only a slight increase in the inter-plot width.</p> <p>4. JT is awaiting grid coordinates for the car park area so he can identify the plots affected – most likely around Plots 22 to 24, to be confirmed shortly. Adequate warning will allow sheds or raised beds to be reconfigured if necessary, but this will be avoided if possible.</p> <p>5. JT asked EH if it is possible to find out why a TPO¹ has been placed on the strip of trees/bushes to the North of the site. FL(A) will have to negotiate a solution with the PA if the single access route from the car park is to run along the line currently proposed (or parallel to it).</p> <p>6. JR voiced concern about effective drainage if/when houses are built in the current open field and along the access track. GC recommended that SRAA enquire about the drainage plan with FL(A) and its contractor builders to ensure there is an effective plan to deal with this.</p>	<p>EH/JT</p> <p>GC</p>
8.	Planning for 2026 Licence Renewal	<p>1. EH assured the meeting that APC will be seeking an extension to the Licence in 2026, the next review date for a 5-year renewal. JT asked for consultation between FL(A), APC & SRAA as it is envisaged that the Licence will be reconfigured to reflect the different car park and access track. AN: it is possible that the current Licence will need to be extended if the new arrangements are not completed by Nov 26.</p> <p>2. EH is also aware that a freehold acquisition by APC of the licensed area would create protection under Statute Acts, but FL(A) would need to create the conditions for this to happen. The freehold was offered several years ago, on the pre-condition that the planning application would be approved, but APC could not agree to this. For the Statute Act to apply, the site must pass from private ownership to Local Authority. The land is then protected and cannot be sold without Central Government permission.</p>	<p>EH/JT</p>

¹ TPO: Tree Preservation Order, normally placed on individual trees, but appears in this case to be on the whole strip of trees/bushes immediately to the North of the site.

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9.	AOB	<p>1. AS asked whether anything could be done about an underground spring surfacing on Plot 13. JT briefed that a group of SRAA Cmtee members had dug a deep trench on Plot 14 for a drain pipe, collection sump and pipe out to a trench near the Eastern fence-line. This was a difficult task as there was a clay underbed. It might be possible to drain out to the same trench? AN: JT checked the site, and believes it is not a spring, but the natural drainage from the shed at a height of 83 metres to a level base of 80 metres on the bottom part of the plot. It would not be possible to run a drain extension, so the solution offered is to dig a narrow trench down the slope to a pit filled with stones and sticks as a soakaway, then covered with turfs.</p> <p>2. TB reported a diseased apple tree on Plot 17 and what could be done, if anything. AN: JT also checked this plot; whilst it is certainly an apple tree, it has a fungal disease affecting the fruit, with discoloured leaves. Solution is to remove the tree for burning, including all roots, to minimise the impact. Any new planting should be in another part of the plot.</p> <p>3. GC recommended more help to those who cannot visit plots due to holidays, illness, work commitments etc. It was agreed that this should be considered by the Cmtee with other priorities requiring action on the site.</p> <p>4. AD asked if he can cut back the vines on Plot 2 as they are growing very strongly and cannot be contained. This was accepted, and he was invited to add them to the bonfire pile.</p> <p>5. AS apologised that due to illness they had not been able to visit their plot as much as normal.</p> <p>6. JT recommended that SRAA members attend APC monthly meetings, especially when the SRAA allotments feature on the agenda. The link to the website is: http://www.alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/Meetings_Agendas_and_Minutes_34465.aspx</p>	<p>DS/AS</p> <p>JT TB/VS</p> <p>JT</p> <p>Cmtee</p> <p>AS</p> <p>ALL</p>
10.	2024 & 2025 Dates	<p>1. JT said the postponed Oct bonfire will take place on Sun 3rd Nov, subject to permissions and the weather!</p> <p>2. JT confirmed that the new contracts run until 30 Sep 25, and the AGM will be in Oct 25.</p>	<p>ALL</p>

Annexes:

- A. SRAA Treasurer's Report.
- B. FL(A) Plan Extract Feb 24 (With Planned Locations).

Annex A: SRAA Treasurer's Report

Year ended 30th September 2024

Previous Years

		30/09/2024		30/09/2023		30/09/2022
		£		£		£
Income		2,499.02	B/F	3,085.13	B/F	2,647.12
Banked Annual Fees 2023-4		797		644		658
Sale of Shed & Equip		250		80		
Total Income		3,546.02		3,809.13		3,305.12
Disbursements						
	Rent Alderbury PC	-10				-20
	Noticeboard			-976.8		
	Insurance	-99.6				
	Tap Repairs			-39.94		
	Fence/Gate Repairs	-755		-32.64		
	Stationary/Items			-16.76		-16.14
	Meetings Expenditure	-124.9		-160.43		-115.85
	Path Maintenance	-63.16				-68
	First Aid Items			-83.54		
		-1,052.66		-1,310.11		-219.99
FUNDS AVAILABLE		2,493.36		2,499.02		3,085.13
Petty Cash		25.24	B/F	22.15	B/F	4.15
	Annual Fees	70		84		28
	Fuel			-7.01		-10
	Boundary Repairs			-25.4		
	Padlocks			-44.51		
	Weed Control	-47.9		-3.99		
FUNDS AVAILABLE		47.34		25.24		22.15
TOTAL FUNDS		2,540.70		2,524.26		3,107.28
Banked Annual Fees 2024		175.00				
Estimate cash & chqs		175.00				
TOTAL FUNDS		2,890.70				

Annex B: FL(A) Plan Extract Feb 24 (With Planned Locations).

