Minutes of 2025 OTHAS Annual General Meeting

23th September 2025, held at Waverley Arms. The meeting started at 8pm

28 members were physically present (appendix 1).

item	Title and discussion notes	Action/note	Lead
1	**Introductions** Ian White as Chair introduced the other Committee members present (Alice Baker, Andrew Coulson, Christian Denereaz, Simon Miles, Adam Thompson)	None	
2	**Apologies** 14 members had given their apologies (appendix 2)	None	
3	**Minutes of 2024 AGM** These were accepted unanimously There were no matters arising.	None	
4	**Chair's Report** Ian outlined some of the site wide events of the last year: water extensions, major tree works by Southwark, creation of more starter plots, new compost area by the burning area, improvements to the steps up the hill, new raised beds (mainly funded by grant), improving access to the site with the new path from the car park gate (mainly funded by grant), a new noticeboard. This was in addition to the ongoing maintenance of the site by the membership. This has included dealing with several water leaks and taking steps to improve security to prevent unauthorised entry – especially at the higher parts of the site. Thank you to all who contributed. Ian outlined the forthcoming project working with the parole board. A small group of probationers will be on site each week to carry out maintenance and other site improvement activities identified by OTHAS. The group will have access to the site and will be supervised. No start date as yet - members will be kept up to date.		Ian All to note
5	**Social Events Report** Simon Miles reported on another successful year with a very well attended Open Day resulting in a net contribution to the Social Fund of around £500. Simon thanked all those who made it possible. For the 2026 Open Day Simon will be forming a sub committee from the membership to help organise the day. Simon also mentioned other social events including: the Wassailing (now quite a large event); the Allotment cocktail at Two Spoons; a One Tree Hill 120th anniversary get-together shared with FROTH; and last year's well-		Simon

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	attended bonfire night. This year's bonfire event will be on Sunday November 9th, but with less loud fireworks. Simon (and Ian) also updated the members on the OTHAS History project. We are gathering materials in a Google Docs, which will be shared with members. Jasia Warren has also begun an OTHAS Oral History Project, which was featured on Open Day.		
6	**Treasurer's Report and Audited accounts** Due to illness these were not presented. When available the accounts will be circulated by email for review and a short on site meeting will be held to approve.	Accounts to be finalised and circulated	Alice Baker
7	**Membership Report** Christian Denereaz outlined the numbers of plots; changes over the year and current vacancies and waiting list. The membership is now about 56% Southwark residents and 44% Lewisham. We are working to increase the proportion of Southwark residents in line with the lease with the Council. 70% of the waiting list live in Southwark.	None	Christian
8	**Elections for Committee Officers** Ian White was re-elected unanimously as Chair for 2025/26. Alice Baker and Andrew Coulson were re-elected unanimously as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.	Ian reiterated that 2025/26 will be his last year as Chair.	All to note. Adam for website etc
9	**Elections for other Committee members** Adam Thompson, Simon Miles, Christian Denereaz and Dee Malcolm were re-elected. No other plot holder stood for election.	Ian White will seek other Committee members from the membership.	All to note. Adam for website etc
10	**Election of auditors** Linda McLaughlin was re-elected unanimously**.**	None	
11	**Proposed Change of OTHAS to Cooperative** Ian outlined the proposal that had been circulated to members. We will be following National Allotment Society advice. A member asked that the Committee keep the legal status of the organisation under review in case another entity becomes advantageous. Ian asked for a vote. 26 members voted in favour of the change, no one voted against and there was one abstention.	Committee to progress the decision	Ian (as Chair)

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12	**Proposed Club Hut and new Secure Container** Initial proposals had been circulated to members. A question was raised as to whether the club hut will have mains electricity – it won't as this is about £3.500 to connect. The meeting was in favour of further exploring options and costs.	Committee to progress the decision	Ian (as Chair)
13	**Any Other Business** None raised		
	Meeting closed at 8.40pm		

Appendix 1

Members attending the AGM:

Ian White, Andrew Coulson, Tony Padgham, Steve Harrison, Patricia Harrison, Christian Denereaz, Adam Thompson, Simon Miles, Maggie Crumb, Simon Edwards, Tim Darach, Ben Shaw, Fi Pereira, Spud, Carole Backler, Roy Thompson, Alice Baker, Jack Rattenberg, Isabelle Miletich, Jane Wilson, Anna Harrison, Lizzy Lomax, Sally Reichardt, Neville Hawcock, Tom Theobald, Jasia Warren.

Appendix 2

Apologies for absence:

Jill Hunter, Ulrike Kohnen-Zuelzer, Amanda Cowen, Malcolm Medley, Andy Bradshaw, Dee Malcolm, Shenay Ismael, Chris William & Claire, Natasha Murray, Ty, Alice Grahame, Fran Board, Sam Crosfield.