

SURREY TREE WARDEN NETWORK AGM 2023

MINUTES OF THE AGM 1st July 2023 – Esher Rugby Club, Walton on Thames, Surrey

Apologies:

Gillian Gibbins (Tadworth), Martin Mathews (Ashted), Michael Smith (Spelthorne)

Minutes of the previous AGM

These were accepted by the members at the meeting as a true record.

Secretary's Report

Patricia Welcomed everyone to the 19th SURREY TREE WARDEN AGM

She thanked members for taking the time to be at the meeting, also for the effort and commitment made towards so many planting projects over the last year - for being the educated, keen and observant, eyes, ears and voice for Surrey's trees.

Special thanks went to fellow officers and members of the committee for their hugely generous efforts in helping to lead and support the Network:

- Liz Ramsay, News Editor
- Sue Henderson, Membership Secretary
- Rod Thorn, Communications Officer
- Dave Pope, Acting Treasurer
- Steven McCormick, Chairman
- Sally Pemberton, David Woods, Anne Richards and Trefor Hogg

Patricia spoke about the current working relationship with SCC

She confirmed that the Network's friendship and professional relationship with SCC had continued to grow successfully throughout the year. Surrey Officer **Robbie Stewart** remained fundamental in promoting and facilitating meaningful dialogue between our various groups. He had continued to assist us with our tree planting projects, showing great clarity and dedication in the process.

Surrey had provided the trees and facilitated many planting projects again, following requests from tree warden groups and the members of the public. Members were advised that the order books were full for the 23/24 planting season.

Surrey's Senior Woodland Management Officer, Debra Lee, had continued to be key in promoting and facilitating tree planting throughout the county as the council strives to meet its commitment to plant 1.2 million trees by the end of the decade.

Debra also provided another successful round of tree giveaways via the library network late last year, including some new libraries, and was thankful for the support many of you gave in supporting that event.

Friends at TTC

The Tree Council continued to be very supportive of our activities, particularly Sam Village, who often attended committee meetings. Sam was always full of ideas and suggestions to help us on our way. Our members had also enjoyed reading the regular 'Branching Out' newsletters that had kept us so well informed on what was happening around the country, allowing us to observe what other networks were up to.

Training

The Network had continued throughout the year with the free offering of on-line training sessions, kindly provided to by TTC, the uptake had been excellent. The Induction course for new tree wardens, Tree Biology and Tree Threat modules had been provided. New modules would be introduced from September with a great new focus on hedgerows.

Network Insurance

Patricia confirmed that the Network had now put in place insurance cover for each member – the only condition was that they had to attend the Tree Warden Induction Course. Full details of the insurance cover would be issued to members following the AGM and details would be made available from the STWN website.

Vacancies

The post of Treasurer was still open, sadly no new nominations had been received. Thanks were shown to Dave Pope for continuing as acting treasurer, and for maintaining the networks accounts and the obligations that go with being a registered charity.

Also noted was a vacancy for a Communications Officer following Rod Thorn's decision to stand down from the committee following a recent period of illness. Patricia expressed the committee's very best wishes to Rod for a full recovery to good health. Rod had been such an asset to the Network and we would all miss him enormously.

It was noted that the Network was interested in any new members looking to join the **committee**.

Patricia expressed again how important members were in acting as a voice for our amazing trees – every member had a role to play and none of their efforts were ever wasted.

Treasurer Report

Dave Pope presented the accounts to the meeting; details available for members at the AGM and to be posted to the website.

These were proposed by Patricia Brookwick, seconded by Trefor Hogg and accepted by the members.

Election of Officers and Committee

Chairman

Trefor Hogg was elected to the post of Chairman following the resignation of Steven McCormick.

Communications Officer

Rod Thorn had resigned from the committee due to poor health

The remaining officers and committee were re-elected for a further year.

A.O.B

There was none

The meeting closed at 12.30pm