BRAG A.G.M. 14 May 2023 Minutes

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Erica McCormick, Sylvia Shaw, Sophie Esplin-Jones, Nick Mackley, Tom Frenkiel, David and Jenny Eaton
2. **Approval of Minutes for 2 Oct.’22 A.G.M.** – approved; no objections
3. **To receive the Annual Accounts 2021/22** – items included were Pensioner Discount 48% taken up, Hosepipe use 53%, BAF membership fee up 2 times, refund of overpaid water bill (charged for 12 months but was only on for 6 months), extra income due to more small 2.5 pole plots. (see the last committee meeting minutes)
4. **To accept the retirement of committee members 2022-23** – accepted.
5. **To elect the committee members for 2023/24** – all re-elected; no new offers/applications to join.
6. **To receive the Annual Report 2021/22** –

New Tenants and Plots – since the last A.G.M. 10 plots have been let to new tenants. The waiting List was closed in February and now has 34 people on it. Because some tenants downsized and some tenants left more plots became available including creating 3 short term let extra plots by the lower car park of which one remains unlet. A probationary 1st. year for new tenants is introduced. Deposit for a gate key is raised to £20 (from the uneconomic £5).

Wildlife Area near plot 6 – U.K. native plants are allowed to grow.

Plot Inspections – formal ones have been dropped, instead informal words and chats to be initiated to tenants of plots that are ‘getting out of hand’

Disciplinary – plotholders causing concern will be allowed 4 to 6 weeks to respond; an informal e-mail will be sent if no explanation/excuse is received, then a blunt warning is to be sent.

Complaints Procedure – is to be formulated. Emphasis will be on plotholders to try to sort any dispute out themselves; if no agreement it will go to the committee. An independent person from B.A.F. will be asked to help resolve an issue that continues.

Handbook Updates – 5 pole plots only are to be included. The early payment discount is discontinued. BRAG history updated and tenants to keep contact details updated with committee.

BERFC – we are told that water from the proposed ‘Rain Garden’ will not go into our plots; rather will drain towards the golf links. Pitch 4 new layout touches our north boundary. We have made a planning objection to the rugby club’s plan which includes in their boundary our access road. How far to where the highways road extends is unclear. It is believed that the large car park at the open field is half Barnet Council’s and half the rugby club’s.

Hedge on the north fence – native trees have been offered by The Woodland Trust for us to plant.

Native Trees on plots – these we are not supposed to have; so appeal to plotholders not to let them grow. Fruiting ones only should be on plots.

MOT surfacing material – has been laid along the sides of our roadways and on the path to the top gate into the Environment Centre.

Splitters on Taps – are installed to allow filling of watering cans at the same time as hosepipe use.

Any Other Business – the committee makes an appeal to members that have useful skills e.g. I.T. to share their expertise in the running of the site. Two volunteer days were held last year. Meeting minutes can be found on the Internet and our website. The apple pruning workshop, held in the Environment Centre was successful. Ideas for future workshops are welcomed. Apples from the orchard may be taken by members (although not all by one person please). Anna was thanked for her efforts working for all. Generally this A.G.M. was very well attended; the assembled members undeterred by a swarm of bees passing directly overhead.

 David Wilson