Minutes of the AGM held at 17.30hrs on Thursday 16 October 2025 in the Garden Building.

Present: Alison Singleton (AS), Rebecca Chee(RC), Philippa Slatter (PS) representing the Allotments, Liz Cox (LC), Bruce White (BW), Jane White (JW) Chair, Frank Missler(FM), Serena Michell(SM), Daniel Whant(DW), Carol Wright(CW).

Apologies: Diego Magrini(DM), James Hems (JH), Susanna Colaco (SC), Morgane Lacoffrette-Laffont.

1. The minutes of the last AGM held on 3 October 2024 were agreed.

2. There were no matters arising, but PS asked if we could discuss the Allotments under AOB.

3. Annual Report: CW presented the Annual Report, which is attached to these minutes. She reviewed our activities during the year and future activities and events. The City Council has still not adopted the Garden or given keys for the bollards to their own staff. All events and gardening work are organised and carried out by volunteers. Even a little help is much appreciated.

4. Financial Report: CW presented the Financial Report, which is attached to these minutes. The balance 31 August 2025 was £3205.42 (including £441.72 held on behalf of Clay Farm Food). Expenditure totalled £3304.32. CW thanked regular donors and FM and LC for their donations to pay for the wisteria plants, which have been planted. CW emphasised the importance to the Garden of the income from the Food Trucks as applying for grants has become increasingly restrictive. It was agreed that anyone using the building's facilities should be asked for a recommended contribution to cover our insurance and consumables.

5. Table Shading: BW had received an estimate for the further materials for the wisteria pergola, £290 and installation, which would be done by Julian Querino for another £300. It was agreed to accept the estimate. As had been reported already, two good sized wisterias had been planted, which would be encouraged to grow over the pergola and create some shade during the hot weather. DW pointed out that the wisteria would need trimming and asked if we had ladders and had taken this into account. BW said we had and asked if he was offering to do the job. DW may be available.

6. Licence and Management Plan: There has been no movement on this matter, despite the efforts of David Plank to chase this up on our behalf. BW and FM had held a meeting recently with Councillors David Levien and Olaf Hauk and asked them what they would be doing about this frustrating situation. A response is awaited.

7. Future events and fund raising: Pumpkin carving 25 October: Thanksgiving 27 November, Eco Market on 30 November, Xmas event on 11 December and the Wassail, together with the Orchard, on 11 January. SM confirmed that she would be attending the

Eco Market and could assist with Garden leaflets. She also offered fresh fruit for the mulled wine. The Xmas event would follow the same format as last year. The church choir would sing Carols. Diego would obtain the alcohol licence. PS asked if we were aware that the TRA had a card reader. The Garden also has one, which is linked to the QR code.

Following the success of the drama event, it was agreed that CW should contact ARU and see if they would like to do something similar in 2026.

PS informed everyone that the Nature Day in 2026 would be held on 20 June at Trumpington Meadows.

The committee had agreed to consider fund raising when we had a specific project in mind.

8. Garden planting and repairs: BW has produced an extensive list of jobs that need doing during the year which is attached to these minutes. There is a four-year cycle in the vegetable garden which AS looks after. Any surplus is taken to the food club.

BW is concerned about the lack of rain and use of water in the Garden. Should we be planting dry weather resistant plants? We may need advice. PS suggested the Botanic Gardens. There had been an attempt a few years ago by the Botanic Gardens to bring together all the community gardens and orchards but the co-ordinator had since moved on and very little came of it.

We need to repair the vegetable fencing and posts, and the pond needs cleaning out regularly because people drop all sorts of stuff in it. Guy Belcher has recommended leaving it as is for a year.

DW asked if there was a five-year plan for the Garden? It is difficult to plan at the moment with the uncertainty caused by the lack of decision making between Vistry and the City Council.

9. ASB: FM outlined several problems with ASB, abuse and theft of produce, there are issues about understanding what “community” means. Unlike other community gardens we do not have an enclosed space. He has reported incidents to the police. There is an incident log in the kitchen beside the first aid kit and DM has developed an online form, on the website, which can easily be completed on one’s phone. Photos are always useful.

BW suggested that there are two choices – either we carry one as before and try to cope or we can bring matters to a head. The City Council must provide a point of contact to whom we can address any issues, including advice about what we can and cannot do.

10. Election of the Committee: Chair DM, Treasurer CW, Secretary LC. Committee members: FM, BW, SM, SC.

11. A.O.B. PS explained that the Allotments are in some difficulty as they have had no support from the Council and there are no proper management arrangements. She has been trying to resurrect the Allotment committee. They intend to challenge the decision about the storage rules which prevents sheds. Also, there have been problems with access to the toilet and shared tool store.

DW suggested that a Friends group should be set up for the Garden, Hobson's Park, and the Allotments. There had been an inaugural meeting of the Friends of Hobson's Park but only two people had turned up, and nothing happened afterwards. There is currently a big problem for many voluntary organisations getting people involved.

The committee had agreed that there should be an agenda item once or twice a year to discuss the Allotments with a representative of the Allotments, but this was not appropriate at the AGM.

The meeting ended at 19.15hrs.

Elizabeth Cox

Secretary