

Treasurer's Report to the AGM

7th November 2023

Introduction

For those of you who want to see a copy of the full accounts to 30th September 2023 there is a copy available with the other AGM papers. I will however try and summarise the main points in my presentation which I suppose I should call my Annual Autumn Statement.

Income

Firstly, with regard to income we had a total income for the year of £9,579 compared to £12,605 in the previous year, a decrease of £3,026. This mainly resulted from the fact that in the previous financial year we had two Autumn socials due to timing and substantial sales of the Centenary Book.

The majority of our income of course comes from Plot rentals and related income which amounted to £5,530 compared to £6,649 in the previous year.. This decrease of £1,119 in Plot related income is due to the fact that we stopped taking waiting list deposits during the year and there was a difference in the timing of receipt in Potholder rents with more being received prior to 30th September last year.

The social events were a great success this year and we were blessed with a good turnout for our autumn Social on 3rd September. I would like to thank all those involved in organising the day and in particular Joany for her efforts in organising the Raffle which raised £384 and Ruth who as ever did a brilliant job in organising the home produce, competitions and judging team. Thank you also for those involved in the seed and plant sales earlier in the year. In total we made a surplus of £1,083 on all our social activities excluding the Café. Well done to all involved.

Last but not least I would like to thank Anne and the Café team for all their work during the year. I am sure all would agree that the café adds a great deal to the enjoyment of Plotholders and this year it contributed net income of £2,355 to the income of RPA and it clearly provides a forum for the sharing of knowledge and expertise.

Expenditure

With regard to expenditure, we spent £7,786 this year compared to £5,432 in the previous year. It was a year in which we invested £4,708 in our water pumps across the site. This was a joint effort between our "in-house" pumps team and a firm of

specialist contractors and having witnessed some of the works in progress I felt it represented a wonderful example of effective collaborative working. I'm sure we all benefitted greatly from the pump refurbishment project during the last growing season and will do going forward.

Just so you are aware, major expenditure is budgeted and approved by the Committee and we are able to keep a tight control of expenditure which of course means we can keep the annual Plot rents at a very modest £24 a per annum. We are blessed to have a very committed team of volunteers with significant expertise who undertake many maintenance tasks either individually or in teams which means we only use external contractors on major projects. Thank you for all you do for the benefit of our community on the site.

Summary result

In summary we achieved a surplus for the year of £1,793 compared to a surplus of £7,172 in 2022. Our surplus for the year has been added to reserves. We enter the new financial year with reserves of £33,527 which is well in excess of our agreed minimum reserves of £10,000. However, we have plans for a continuation of some of the projects we have undertaken over the last few years and indeed the Committee welcomes ideas for future improvements to the site.

Concluding remarks

I would like to thank 2 people in particular for their help in my 5th year as Treasurer.

I would like to thank Martin Scotton for his diligence in collecting the rents which takes up a lot of his time at the end of the year with almost 300 plots on the site.

Secondly, I would like to thank Len Cowking for undertaking an independent review of the accounts and underlying papers so efficiently and my fellow Committee members and our chair Karen Saywell for their support and perseverance and positivity during another challenging but very productive year.

If you have any questions on the detailed accounts or what I have just said please ask now or you can email me at treasurer@rpa.org.uk

Andrew Stanley

Honorary Treasurer

Royal Paddocks Allotments