

**Streatham Common Co-operative  
Annual General Meeting (AGM): Minutes of meeting**

**Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

**1. Reports from current board members**

The Chair, Richard Payne, introduced the meeting and welcomed members to SCCoop's second AGM. He presented the Board's report which included a discussion of how well we were doing against our objectives and previous commitments and the society's spending to date. Georgina Worrall spoke on the current Fundraising Plans. Richard Payne also presented plans for additional revenue generating activities to help offset the cuts, including a Christmas Market.

**2. Speaker, Cllr Jane Edbrooke, cabinet member for Neighbourhoods**

Cllr Jane Edbrooke spoke about the results of the Cultural Consultation 2020 and their impact on SCCoop and Streatham Common. The main points:

- Savings of £2million from the parks budget.
- Without SCCoop among other cuts there would be the closure of the paddling pool (£40,000 per year to keep open) and a toilet block.
- Confirmed £3.8 million capital investment programme, of which £1 million is for the Streatham Common playground and lower yard scheme.
- Confirmed the lease on the café is to go to open tender with the current tenants leaving at the end of this month.

**3. Report from the manager**

The Manager, Dom Leary, presented an overview of the activities carried out by SCCoop since starting services in February 2015, and a comparison with our plans and feedback from our last AGM. Activities included improvements to the gardens, hiring additional staff, a partnership with Mencap, volunteering with 600 hours of volunteer time recorded to date and repairs. There were significant leakage issues regarding the Cascade which had prevented it from being operational this year.

**4. Approval of Accounts to April 2015**

Nick Catermole presented the official accounts to the meeting. The society had not made a profit in the period, and had balanced the books. The meeting approved the accounts and agreed their submission to the FCA.

**5. Appointment of Auditor and allocation of surplus funds**

The meeting agreed that the accounts would be audited by Chris James, a member of the society and a chartered accountant. There were no surplus funds to allocate.

**6. Election of Board**

Under the rules, 1/3 of the elected board members (two members, Richard Payne and Georgina Worrall) stood for re-election. They were re-elected unopposed by a clear majority of the 47 members present. The board members were confirmed as:

The nominated representatives (who are not elected by the membership) are:

- Danny Adilypour, Lambeth Councillor
- Maggie Charnley, Streatham Common Community Garden
- Alastair Johnstone, Lambeth Council officer
- Tracey Williamson, Friends of Streatham Common

The following are elected to the Board:

- Nick Cattermole
- John Ditchfield
- Charles Mitchell
- Richard Payne
- Alex Watt
- Georgina Worrall

## **7. Streatham Common and Streatham Memorial Gardens after April 2016**

The Chair provided an overview of the likely budgets for SCCoop and what these changes would mean. Key points were:

- Core budgets only likely to increase to £115,000 rather than £230,000 originally expected.
- Possible additional revenue of £50,000 from a café rental, events and concessions
- Leaving around £65,000 additional spend post April 2016
- With a £40,000 capital spend paid over the 5 year contract, this would enable the hire of perhaps 1.5 additional staff, but depends on TUPE issues.
- To keep the paddling pool, we will need to set up community group to paint each season. Repairs budget strictly limited. Risk of failure.
- Horticulture – plants budget severely restricted, reduced seasonal bedding
- Security – we plan to maintain closing of gates each evening.
- Conservation – mainly relying on volunteers / partnerships say LWT
- Green Waste – bring back into use green waste recycling on the common

## **8 Panel Session**

The meeting was then opened up to the floor for a number of questions which were put to a panel of Cllr Jane Edbrooke, Dom Leary (SCCoop Manager) and Richard Payne (SCCoop Board Chair). Some of the points and questions raised are summarised below.

JE was committed to SCCoop and seeing it was a success, and saw it as her responsibility to ensure it was.

JE was committed to cutting out beaurocracy where she could and SCCoop hadn't already.

SCCoop would get the income from the café rental and be closely involved with any tendering process.

It was unclear who will manage the diary for events (Lambeth or SCCoop) and whether we would be given access to the booking portal. This still needs to be resolved.

JE confirmed there are funds available for next year's bonfire night.

Develop bird walks as an income stream? Not massively viable but hope Peter Newmark continues to do them

Can the tractor we purchase be used to develop income? Yes we would be happy to share either the costs, or rent it out to other parks.

Can we not get the cascade working without full £43k – yes possibly as there may be a much smaller amount of work that could get something going.

Will SCCoop have to take on pensions etc – TUPE'd employees – negotiating but if we had to it would be unsustainable for SCCoop – still negotiations to go through.

One member idea was to collect money for the Cascade by throwing into wishing well....

## **9 Any Other Business (AOB)**

In closing, the Chair thanked the speakers and also the members for attending.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.