

**Streatham Common Community Operations Limited
Trading as: Streatham Common Co-operative or SCCoop**

Annual General Meeting (AGM): Minutes of meeting

Thursday, 14th September 2017

1. Reports from current board members

The Chair of the board, Richard Payne, introduced the meeting and welcomed members to SCCoop's fourth AGM. He presented the Board's report which included a reminder of SCCoop's vision and a lookback over the previous year's activities and how these met our objectives. Richard noted that we had not been able to take over the common at this time but had started services on the common such as ecology in the Local Nature Reserve, and the operating the paddling pool and carpark security. SCCoop's current contract with Lambeth lasts till October 2018 and options for beyond that are starting to be discussed with Lambeth.

Richard noted there were now 550 members. Lambeth has now started building the new playground. The lease for the Rookery Barn with Inkspot has been completed. The paddling pool has been open all season with the fundraising target of £5000 likely to be met. Major fundraising events were the Xmas fair, Rookfest and the Bring and Buy Plant Sale. A major sponsorship deal had been signed with Douglas and Gordon. Anthony Gold and John Horseman Trust have also supported us. The Rookery Café has been refurbished, high horticultural standards have been maintained in the Rookery Gardens. New volunteer groups and a new co-ordinator have been working on conservation in the Local Nature Reserve.

2. Report from the manager

The SCCoop manager Dom Leary, presented his report for the year. He explained that the HLF funded planting in the White and Old English Gardens is well established. Over the year there had been ongoing rationalisation in both gardens, allowing space for plants of seasonal interest. As the planting matured we had lifted and divided many plants, some of which are replanted around the garden, others potted up and put up for sale. Dom wished to highlight the range of horticultural techniques which are now deployed by both staff and volunteers in the garden. This is leading to high quality gardening in many parts of the Rookery.

Dom then spoke about how the garden was used by the public. Summer is our busiest time and the Rookery is becoming ever more popular, particularly with families with young children. This popularity can sometimes have a negative effect with loud games in parts of the garden which perhaps should be much more quiet. SCCoop are keen that the Rookery is enjoyed by all parts of the community. Dom then went on to give an update about the team. SCCoop have now employed their second apprentice, their first recently recruited to the maintenance team at London Borough of Lambeth.

SCCoop very much consider volunteers as part of the team. Since the last AGM volunteers had contributed 2309hrs - a remarkable achievement. Some volunteers were taken to the White Garden at Sissinghurst as a thankyou.

Dom then gave a brief overview of events held at the Rookery including the plant sale and in particular Rookfest. He also explained that SCCoop have allowed other local groups to use the venue as a fundraiser for their own projects. Dom finished up by saying how much he was looking forward to the coming year and introduced Barbara Wright who gave an update on the Rookery Cascade and Rock Garden Bid. This had not been successful, but feedback had been very positive and therefore with a few tweaks the bid was being re-submitted as the scheme was highly fundable. Additional funding would likely come from Lambeth and the project expanded to include an education centre.

3. Approval of Accounts to April 2016

Richard Payne presented the official accounts to the meeting. The society's income had increased in our second full year with £141,151 turnover vs. £130,566 the previous year. Total net assets had risen from £6,896 to £9,153. Due to the difficulties targeting spending to be exactly the same amount as income, we had made a small operating profit in the period of £4,100, and have £779 tax to pay. It was noted that this took into account provisions of 37,830 set aside for repairing the cascade, emptying the cess pite, and repairing a storage area, and donations ringfenced for the operations of the paddling pool. The meeting approved the accounts and agreed their submission to the FCA.

Richard presented an overview of the budget for 2017/18 showing income further increasing, projected to be £148,500 with spending around £145,000. The £148,500 included around £20,000 donated to the Friends of Streatham Common (a registered charity) that is expected to be donated to SCCoop over the coming year.

4. Appointment of Auditor and allocation of surplus funds

The meeting agreed that the accounts would be audited again (on a review basis) by Chris James, a member of the society and a chartered accountant. Surplus funds were allocated to be spent on improvements to the Rookery and on Streatham Common.

5. Election of Board

Under the rules, 1/3 of the elected board members were up for re-election. Georgina Worrall was not re-standing and the society thanked her for their work. Charlie Mitchell and Alex Watt were retiring and re-standing. Marcus Ward was standing for the first time. Charlie Mitchell, Alex Watt and Marcus Ward were all elected unopposed by a clear majority of the 45 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

- Kevin Crook, Lambeth Council officer
- Tracey Williamson, Friends of Streatham Common

The following are elected to the Board:

- Amy Chalkley
- Leo Hopkins
- Charles Mitchell
- Richard Payne
- Marcus Ward
- Alex Watt

6. Panel Discussion, Cllr Sonia Winifred – Lambeth cabinet member for Equalities and Culture, Kevin Crook – Head of Neighbourhoods and Growth, London Borough of Lambeth and Dom Leary – SCCoop Manager and Head Gardener.

Topic discussed included the future of SCCoop, the new Lambeth Parks service (Lambeth Landscapes) and plans for the future, Events in parks, and the Lambeth Country Show.

7. Local Nature Reserve Project

Mered Jones, SCCoop's Local Nature Reserve Project and Volunteer Co-ordinator spoke about the projects for the coming winter. These were to focus on three zones – 1) Acid Grassland Conservation Project, 2) Woodland Wildlife & Water Project, and 3) Hilly Four Acres Copse. Mered spoke about the work to be carried out in each zone.

8. 2018 priorities.

The Chair opened the meeting to the floor for members to put their suggestions about additional ideas that the board should consider in 2018 in addition to the current activities. The following ideas were put forward:

- A sensory trail
- Bluebells in the woodlands
- A trim trail
- Engagement with LB Croydon

9 AOB

Cllr Clair Wilcox gave an update on the Playground Development – noting that the steering group had been consulted on the loss of two trees, but this was more than offset by additional planting. The Steering Group was asking Lambeth for a sign with a number to call for problems.

The chair passed on a request that the Friends of Streatham Common were looking for a new Kite Day organisers. Members were encouraged to fill in feedback forms.

9 Close

In closing, the Chair thanked the speakers and also the members for attending. The chair also thanked all the society's staff, garden volunteers, event volunteers, board members, supporters, sponsors, funders and members who together make SCCoop possible.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.