

Minutes of the WAM AGM

Held Friday 12th September 2025
At East Worthing Community Centre Pages Lane Worthing

The presentation slides (q.v.) contain the agenda and information provided with it. These notes are in addition to it.

There were 37 attendees this year, up on last year with apologies from the committee from Rik Pease, Lorraine Robinson, Andrew Heater and Richard Lawson, from the West Tarring working party Derek Turner and 14 from tenants.

Minutes from the last AGM were accepted – proposed by Jack Powis and seconded by Roy Nicholson.

The chair opened the meeting at 7pm advising the attendees that he was retiring from the position of Chairman at the end of this month and wanted to focus on the history of WAM's management of seven of the eight sites in the borough of Worthing on behalf of the Council.

The presentation showed some of what WAM had achieved on a year by year basis.

The chair did focus on two men who are sadly no longer with us; Paul Eustice who was the pioneer of creating WAM and served as a stalwart committee member almost to the end. Without Paul, WAM would probably never have existed. Bob Bingham was another valued member of WAM and is also greatly missed.

Once again, the working parties were thanked for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout the year and without them the sites would not be in as good a condition as they are today.

The chair advised that now the Council is not involved in pest control, WAM is initiating it's own pest control at Hill Barn under the supervision of the overseer of the site, Richard Lyons. This will be an 'experiment' conducted over time and if successful, rolled out to the other sites as required.

The usual topics of rubbish, rats and bonfires raised a question or two from the floor.

There has been a few changes to the committee so far this year, mainly the changes of overseers, and these were made known by the chair.

The secretary and the chair commented on the changes made to the Terms & Conditions that will be incorporated after the AGM.

There were no changes to either the Constitution or the SLA.

The Treasurer advised the main expense for the year was the amount of the water bill, over £11,000 and double that paid previously. Water charges will be raised by the supplier next year and therefore this expense will be even greater. The cost of the water is paid from the allotment rents collected on behalf of the Council and it has been agreed that the rental per rod from 1st October 2025 will be £11.50. Surprisingly, this announcement met with some antagonism by a few members of the audience and a vote was taken. Not surprisingly, most of the attendees realised that 50p per rod increase was not outrageous or misplaced and the increase was approved by a huge majority.

The Treasurer's report was accepted (see slides) – proposed by Richard Lyons and seconded by Pamela Hannam

As there were no nominations for committee positions received and with Rik Pease being nominated and approved by the

Committee for the position of chair, all other existing members were re-elected.

Caroline Webb will be standing down from her position of secretary and Andrew Heater has agreed and has been approved by the Committee, to be her successor. However, this will be a transitional hand over and could be completed in the New Year.

Proposed by John Martin and seconded by Denis Chadwick.

Peter Hannam was presented with this year's Geddes Cup.

The date for the next AGM is Friday 11th September 2026.