

Glasgow Allotments Forum (GAF)
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Glasgow City Chambers
20 November 2025
Minutes

In Attendance: Cllr Seonaid Hoy, Cdr Nick Parry, Alister Smith, Aras Sulaiman (prizewinnnder, plus guests), Barbara de la Rue, Chris Kuhn (Committee), Gordon Lowe (Committee), Jenny Reeves (Treasurer), Judy Wilkinson (Committee), Kate McKillop (Chair), Kyle Taggart, Laura, Margaret Greer (Vice Chair), Maureen McKendrick (Secretary), Michael Cassidy (prizewinner, and guest) Rumen and Galya, Samantha Curley (prizewinner, and guest), Scott Ramsay, Sarah and John, Stephen.

Apologies: Baillie Martha Wardrop and Fraser

1. Welcome

Kate (Chair) opened the meeting, welcoming all in attendance.

2. New Plotolders Awards

- Cdr Nick Parry (Deacon) shared a background to the formation in 1605 and role of The Incorporation of Gardeners of Glasgow (IGG). They have supported the GAF New Plotolders Awards since 2010.
- Commander Deacon Nick Parry presented the awards:
 - **Commendation:** Aras (Hamiltonhill Allotments)
 - **Commendation:** Derek (Croftburn Allotments)
 - **Highly Commended:** Samantha (High Carntyne Allotments)
 - **2nd Place:** Julia & Joe (Hamiltonhill Allotments)
 - **1st Place:** Michael (Sir John Stirling Maxwell Allotments)
- For the 2026 season, IGG will also fund "Plotting On" awards to recognise established plotholders.
- Kate thanked Nick for supporting the awards and our continued partnership.

3. Annual General Meeting

Kate reflected on our key achievements, including our calendar of activities - Potato Day, workshops and Awards.

3.1 Approval of 2024 Minutes

- Minutes of the 2024 AGM were proposed by Scott, and seconded by Margaret as an accurate reflection of the meeting:

3.2 Secretary's Report

- The previous secretary stepped down, and Mo (Secretary) agreed to be co-opted to ensure continuity.
- Key tasks: clean-up of ~3.5k emails; current mailbox reduced to 33.
- Brevo digital platform improved member communications for GAF events including New Plotholder Awards, GAGC workshops, and the AGM.

- Programme/Action Log developed to track multiple projects with clear ownership and target dates.

3.3 Treasurer's Report

- Jenny (Treasurer) gave a report on the finances.
- Potato Day is the main source of income; Income £6,930.78; Expenditure £5,629.87. Profit used to cover our running expenses (IT, website, insurance, awards, events).
- Accounts independently examined by Bob Nicholson. We expressed thanks for his continued support.

3.4 Potato Day 2025

- Scott (Potato Day Lead) shared outputs from Potato Day this year, held 22 February 2025 at Pearce Institute, Govan.
- Core team: 5 members and 23 volunteers.
- 35 potato varieties plus onions, shallots, garlic, seeds, and compost.
- Estimated 500 transactions, mostly contactless
- Event continues to be both a fundraising and community engagement highlight.
- Currently preparing for 2026, incorporating learning from last year. Volunteers welcome!

3.5 GGAC (Growing a Good Allotment Community)

- Jenny (GGAC lead) shared initiated January 2024 from Democracy Matters consultation and Potato Day feedback.
- Five conversations held at various sites across Glasgow led to:
 - Governance meeting (April) – short-term working group set up to collate resources.
 - Workshop (May) – explored ethos, governance, culture, inclusivity, mental health, wellbeing, cultivation, and biodiversity. Outputs published on website.
 - October meeting (October) – Building a culture of collaboration, understanding conflict facilitated by Verene Nicolas;
 - Output reports available on GAF website.

3.6. 2026 New Plotholder & Plotting On Awards

- Chris (Awards Lead) shared plans for 2026:
 - Initial communication: March 2026
 - Applications invited: May 2026
 - Judging completed: July 2026 by Ruth Vichos (SRUC, BBC Beechgrove Garden presenter)
- Please promote awareness among sites during onboarding.

3.7. Election of Office Bearers

Margaret (Vice-Chairperson) thanked the current committee who now stand down. All attendees were invited to volunteer for the office bearer and ordinary member positions.

Following election process, new committee as follows:

Office Bearers:

- Chairperson – Kate proposed by Margaret, seconded by Gordon
- Vice Chairperson – Margaret proposed by Chris, seconded by Scott
- Secretary – Mo proposed by Kate, seconded by Jenny
- Treasurer – Gordon proposed by Mo, seconded by Chris.

Ordinary Members:

- Chris – Awards
- Judy – GGAC activities & external liaison
- Jenny – ordinary member
- Scott – Potato Day Lead
- Stephen– New ordinary member

Kate thanked Jenny for her contributions, presenting her with gifts on behalf of the Forum.

5. Future Planning

- Margaret gave oversight of the work to date on constitution, led by Scott and Kate. This highlighted the need for GAF governance clarification regarding representation of sites and membership, events and explore SCIO charity status. GAF membership remains open to all Glasgow ploholders.
- Options for engagement:
 - Doors Open Day at allotments
 - Topic-specific chat sessions (AI, GDPR, cyber security, website management)
 - Political policy hustings
- Core message: GAF as a platform to amplify ploholder voices; review alignment with constitution.

6. Any Other Business

- GCC Centralised Waiting List:
 - GCC requested updates by 5 Dec; inconsistencies remain regarding local vs centralised lists.
 - Margaret and Seonaid to follow up with GCC committee convener on 11 Dec.
- Potato Day 2026: Scheduled for 21 February at Pearce Institute.
- Calendar of events to be published in January 2026

7. Close of Meeting

- Kate thanked attendees and closed the meeting.