

Capel St Mary Allotments Association

Notes to be discussed in place of General Committee Meeting 18th May 2020.

The meeting was not held owing to COVID 19 restrictions.

Notes circulated to the General Committee to be commented on using the WhatsApp group. Any decisions made during this time will be recorded at the next General Committee Meeting.

1. Chairman's Report – CH

I informed Malcolm Fenn (who is a member of the PC ManCom) of the measures that the Association were taking to conform to the Covid 19 emergency measures. He will keep the PC informed.

The PC have not had a reply from the NAGT re the grant and has sent another request for a formal reply.

Sponsors of the 2020 Show who have donated to us have been informed that the Show has been cancelled and all (still waiting to hear from S A Prior) have agreed that the Association can hold the money over to next year.

Should we be keeping the main gate open (covid19 measure) during the day as this maybe a security risk and give non members access to the site? Balance this against the covid19 risk.

Thank you to Graham for organising the online sales and to those who assisted with deliveries and now to the reopening of the HUT and thanks to Martyn for the updates published on our website.

Still optimistic that we can run the best kept allotment competition.

The Association has received a government grant of £10,000 (yes, ten thousand pounds!) as part of the government scheme to help businesses during the Covid19 emergency.

Geoff and I have been working behind the scenes to establish that we are entitled to the grant and we now have an email from Babergh confirming that we are fully entitled to the grant and can now include the money in our accounts.

It was at the end of March when I received a letter from Babergh saying that we qualified for the grant and requested that the application form was sent back to them. When I tried to fill in the form online I initially thought we were not entitled to the grant but then Geoff received a further letter requesting that we apply. Also, we received an email from Councillor Sue Carpendale who had been asked by Babergh to encourage applications. I filled in the form and within days Geoff received the £10,000 into the Association accounts.

The technical bit is that in 2005 Babergh transferred the AA over to the Small Business Rate Relief scheme and it is because we are registered as a business that the Government grant applies to us.

We will have further meeting to decide on what to spend it on but the obvious project will be the Meeting room.

2. Treasurer and Membership report – GC

Grand Total Cash-£7658.82

Total Available Cash-£2461.4

Rotovator-£605.97

Site Maintenance-£1302.67 Credit.

Paid Membership Total at start of year(last September)-320

New members-21

Resigned-29

Total-312

3 honorary not included in above figures.

Re Collections for 2021.

In view of uncertainty regarding position for normal collections starting in September, I suggest that, unless the situation changes over the couple of months, we switch over to the same system for Village members as we use for Postal members.

Hopefully we can revert to the normal system next year.

If we do this, there will be nothing for Area Liaison officers to do-unless they advise me that they want to do their round as usual.

All Village members will get either get an e-mail or a letter explaining what to do. All payments will be to our Bank account or by cheque/cash direct to me. I will keep all the Membership cards and gradually deliver the paid ones in time for the Hut opening next February.

If we go ahead, I will need to discuss the arrangements with Martyn.

3. Stores Manager – GW

The Hut

Between the last opening of the hut with sales of £1700 to reopening this weekend with sales of £700 we processed 130 on-line orders giving us total sales in excess of £10k.

Thanks to every one for your help along this unprecedented journey. We sold out of seeds early on, bales of bark along the way & the last of 300 Gro-bags this weekend. Double what we normally get through. Members have readily taken to paying by BACS. Thanks to Geoff for tracking each one and to Martyn for organising up-dates to members. The decision to take card payments in January has undoubtedly proved invaluable in the present circumstances & has reduced cheque payments to just 3.

We need help with Hut duty over the next few weeks please as several of our committee need to continue to self isolate. Stay Safe.

A view from above.

A very BIG THANK YOU to our drone Pilot & Co-Pilot who have given us some brilliant footage of the Allotment Site over the last 4 months. The eventual plan is to edit a 12 month film so we can see the changes that take place over the year.

4. Site Manager – DS

All allotment plots are occupied and being worked.

We have a waiting list (for allotment plots) of six.

I have adjusted and re-hung the two gates to the wildlife area so they close correctly.

I have adjusted and re-fixed both double doors to the large poly tunnel so they close better. One end will eventually need a door post replaced as it is slowly rotting away.

We are still having a problem with badgers coming on to site, I have continued to put concrete blocks around the perimeter fence where they are burrowing under the fence.

The grass is being cut on a regular basis. Generally everything on site is looking good.

Cultivator hire. 2 more 1 x £10.00 and 1 x £5.00 (20min hire) to hand over to Geoff.

I have replaced the broken notice board which is adjacent to the pedestrian gate with a slightly larger one.

A plot holder who has horses in Wenham has horse manure available to be collected.

As the padlock on the front gate is broken and the toilet padlock was damaged when we had the break-ins, I have ordered up 3 new padlocks at a cost of £66.35

5. Show Secretary – WR

Most obvious is that the Show is cancelled but we all know that!

I have cancelled the Village Hall booking and kept the provisional 2021 booking and will confirm that later in the year.

It has been decided to keep this years' Schedule for next year and tweek the dates etc early next year when we do our usual Schedule alterations.

Charles writing to our Sponsors to ask that their sponsorship be carried over to next year.

Martyn as you know has updated the Web site.

6. IT – MD

Actions from last meeting

- a. General Committee WhatsApp Group created and in general use.

7. Seed Scheme – PH

Nothing much to report on the seed scheme at this time of the year. We've had a small number of additional seed orders placed since I last reported at the March General Committee meeting totalling approximately £50 (£49.85 to be exact) which will have a small beneficial impact on the commission we will receive from Kings.

No other comments or observations from me. Any queries, please let me know.

8. General Secretary – PB

I contacted all the judges to let them know that the Show had been cancelled. I also contacted the RHS re the Banksian medal. They suggested that we use it to reward a person who we feel has made a significant contribution to the Association during the year. I emailed SSALG and they confirmed that they can hold over the £50 grant till next year.

AOB

AA With the Show being cancelled I have just dropped an email to all the companies that normally support us in the draw to let them know and say that I hope we can count on their support next year. Thought it was important to keep in touch with them so they don't forget us!!

DA I have sent an e-mail to Mark at Shire Trophies informing him that the Show has been cancelled this year and will be back next year 2021

Circulation: All General Committee members, SA and noticeboard