

Capel St Mary Allotments Association

Minutes of General Committee Meeting

Date Monday 27th July 2020

Apologies: AA, DA, GW

1. Points raised in place of General Committee Meeting 18th May

No Matters Arising

2. Minutes of ad hoc Executive Committee meeting Monday 15th June

PB to ask KK for formal reply from NAGT re grant as no reply from her has been received. The grant money from BDC is included in the finance report

3. Chairman's report - CH

One formal judging session for Best Kept Allotment was carried out by Tim Fiddy, Chair of Ipswich Allotments Association, and a winner chosen. DS in process of deciding the winner for Best Newcomer. Both winners will be announced at the same time and will be on the website. Prizes were discussed and 2019 winners will be asked to return cups. CH thanked all plot holders for maintaining a high standard.

4. Progress on Meeting Room – DS

The Meeting Room identified last year has been ordered, size 6m x 5m, Cost £4362.09 Delivery will not be until Dec 2020/ Jan 2021 owing to unprecedented demand for buildings to be used as home-offices. Storage of the building before erection was discussed. It was decided to call it The Meeting Room. CH thanked DS for his work ordering the kit.

5. New arrangements for collecting subs, autumn 2020 – MD, GC

From autumn 2020 subs notices will be sent electronically to members except for those who do not have a computer. GC will contact those members by post. A database with all details of payments due has been set up which will generate invoices. Payment will be by BACS or by cash/cheque to GC. The method has been tested successfully and can be updated for future years. The new method will be piloted in 2020. Postal members will be emailed. When payment from village members has been received, membership cards will be issued. Non-responders will be contacted by phone by liaison people.

6. Reports from

a. Treasurer and Membership Secretary – GC

Grand Total Cash	£22567.88
Total Available Cash	£17370.52
Rotovator Fund	£605.97
Site Maintenance	£1302.67 CR against budget of £1268 DR

Membership figures show a healthy inflow of 36 since last September against resignations of 29 so current total is 327 paid with 3 Honorary.

b. Site Manager – DS

All plots are occupied and 2 new ones have been created. There is a waiting list. DS will extend the covered area in the woodstore, PC to be invoiced. He has also improved the fencing by the road and bought 4 new plot labels (invoice passed to GC). DS thanked GW and GL for grass cutting and managing the bonfire. The work-in on 18th October will go ahead and mower raining will restart on Aug 1st at 12.15. Masks, gloves, sanitising liquids and new keys will be needed. The septic tank will be emptied on 28th July. CH thanked DS and ploholders.

GW arrived

c. Stores Manager, Capel Capers – GW

GW thanked everyone for doing extra cover, extra stock deliveries, extra help in many ways to help keep the hut open in lockdown and to arrange deliveries to members while we were closed and beyond. 2020 sales have probably beaten all records and we are still doing well. PB and MB and GL and DL are now able to man the hut. Volunteers are still needed for another 12 Saturdays after 1st August

CH thanked GW for keeping things going so well and everyone who has helped him.

Card payments have been very successful and have accounted for 60% to 70% of all sales. Implications for 2021 stock discussed.

d. IT – MD

Subs collection already covered. In addition MD has been keeping the website up to date and has produced the August newsletter. It was decided to ask that in future the videos don't have music so that there is no danger of infringing copyright.

e. Seed Scheme – PH

PH has received commission from Kings Seeds of £468 approx. He will receive the bulk order of catalogues and will produce a letter to be included when they are delivered. GW will supply the potato forms. GW and PH will co-ordinate. Catalogues etc should be ready to be delivered by liaison members in the second half of August. Any enquiries please refer back to PH.

f. General Secretary – PB

Scotts homes tested the water in the pond for evidence of great crested newts. Unfortunately none was found.

It was decided to postpone the Picnic on the Plot until 2021

g. Show - WR

Nothing to report. Trophies and cups to be kept by 2019 winners until 2021

7. AOB

WR Has anyone had problems with courgette plants grown from seed? If they have been contaminated the courgettes will taste bitter.

DS The work-in will go ahead as planned on 18th October.

GW The polytunnel cover needs replacing and the polytunnel will be extended by 1 extra arch to provide 2 more plots. It was decided to obtain estimates and then discuss with PC.

The Meeting closed at 20.30

Circulation: All General Committee members, SB and notice board

Signed