

Capel St Mary Allotments Association
Minutes of General Committee Meeting
Monday 21 September 2020

Present: PB, PH, DA, DS, GW, MD, GC, GL, AA Apologies CH, WR

1. Minutes of General Committee Meeting - 27 July 2020

- PB to contact Karen Kenny re date of next meeting.

2. Chairman's Report

- Approval has been given by the PC to go ahead with the repairs to the polytunnel. The cost will be met from the PC allotment capital fund. In addition, the North end of the polytunnel needs replacing and this will include an additional bay, these costs will be financed by the Allotments Association. The labour to do all this work will be carried out by volunteers from the AA. Many thanks to GW.
- Thanks to GW and MD for setting up the subscription and rent renewal system. We will decide later whether to adopt this system permanently.
- The presentation to the winners of the Best Kept Allotment competition and Best Newcomer will be at the Work-In on 18th October at approx 12.00. DA arranging for cups to be engraved and B t contact winners asking them to attend.
- We need to consider how and when we can have the delayed AGM for 2019. Do we formally adopt the one for 2019 when we have the 2021 one next April? This proposal was discussed and agreed.
- The RHS provides the Banksian medal each year to be presented to the show exhibitor who has won the most prize money in a selected group of classes. We have the medal for 2020 but of course no Show! It was suggested by the RHS to award the medal to someone who has "gone the extra mile" in the helping the community this year. In my opinion with all of our hard working committee it would be difficult (and perhaps unfair) to select someone and award them the medal. So I propose that we have the medal mounted and framed ready to put up in the new meeting room together with a few memories of this lockdown period and how it affected the Allotments, hence really awarding it to all the committee. The Committee approved this idea.

3. Work In – 18 October 2020

- This is still planned to go ahead on this date. There are approx. 24 jobs to be actioned including:

Tidying wildlife area	Cut overhanging trees
Build woodchip compound	Install new frame / cover on polytunnel
Install roof on store	Road plannings
Paint workshop, BBQ, wheelbarrows etc	Drains in car park
- MD to email reminder to all and ask who will be attending and advise on bringing own face masks, social distancing to apply, washing facilities and sanitiser will be provided and all to bring own refreshments.

4. Reports

• **Treasurer and Membership Secretary**

- Grand total cash £22,916.46 Total available cash £17,170.50
- Rotovator fund £735.97
- Site Maintenance £1121.24 DR(Budget £1268)
- Membership Year started with 331 paying members and 3 honorary. Under the new collection system over 100 members have paid since the invoices were sent out on September 9th. Very few queries so far - we have about 230 to go! 4 members have resigned.

- **Site Manager**
 - Currently have waiting list of 10 for plots a 6 for the polytunnel. 1 plot is ready now and potentially 2 more plots and 2 for the polytunnel by year end. Looking to extend polytunnel therefore creating more available areas in there.
 - Log Cabin – this was originally to be ordered by the PC so we could reclaim VAT but they have now decided this may be illegal therefore we will need to request company to invoice CSMAA direct. DS to arrange for invoice to be sent to GC.
 - Ash from bonfire – DS suggested this was distributed to all plot holders to put on their plots. MD to inform plottolders to this in a future email to them.
- **Stores Manager**
 - Sales 50% on last year and the card machine has encouraged this increase.
 - Will need to continue with delivery service for foreseeable future.
 - Will look to have book in hut to record any requests for items we currently don't stock.
 - Discussed possibility of whether Nelson Potter would be happy to offer a discount to Allotment members and this idea to be put to them.
- **IT**
 - August flypast has now been placed on the website.
- **Show Secretary**
 - WR apologised for missing the meeting due to extra work commitments but as there was no show this year had nothing to add.
- **Seed Scheme**
 - Catalogues have all been distributed.
 - 15 potato orders received to date - £161. Total orders normally about 50. MD to email members to remind them of closing date of 15 October for orders.
 - 22 orders for seeds so far placed with about 7 requests for login details received.

5. General Secretary's Report

- PB to keep the Banksian Medal until new Clubhouse ready (as discussed above).
- Calendar for 2021 – number of meetings to be kept the same as this year and dates to be circulated.

6. Any Other Business

- Discussed whether a local yoga class could use large polytunnel as a venue during current |Covid-19 restrictions. PB to contact PC to ask.
 - Subsequent to the meeting the PC was emailed and the initial response was that this would not be allowed. We have asked them to reconsider as it was felt that this would a great gesture of community spirit if the Parish Council could give us special short-term permission. By doing so we would be helping members of the group to keep active and maintain physical and mental health. We are awaiting a response.
- PH mentioned that Pound Lane was due to be closed Saturday 26 September which could affect hut sales.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Date of next meeting: 1 November 2020

Circulation: General Committee members, SB & notice board.

Signed.....