

Capel St Mary Allotments Association
Minutes of General Committee Meeting
Monday 26 September 2022

Present: CH, MD, DA, AA, RB, TS, ML, PH, WR, DS, GC

Apologies: PH

1. Matters Arising from General Committee Meeting – 16 August 2022

- Replacement of Wildlife Boards – TS following up.
- No Parking on Grass signage – ML to action.
- Signage on site – TS getting prices / info for next meeting.
- DS was thanked for his work on installing floodlights and wiring up horsebox.

2. Chairman's Report

- Picnic on the Plot – profit of approx. £100 made and a suggestion of a donation to buy bulbs to be placed about village was made and will be raised at next PC Meeting.
- Security Fencing – RB has investigated and costed and this will be raised at next PC Meeting.
- Mike Garrod has agreed to take on position as Site Co-Ordinator. PB to assist with first visit.
- CH thanked WR and the team for their work on arranging a fantastic Village Show.

3. Reports

● **Treasurer and Membership Secretary**

- Grand total cash £15,020.74 Total available cash £12,834.24
- Rotovator fund £975.97 Site Maintenance -£882.53 (Budget-£1,495.00)
- Membership – Membership Year started (Sept 2022) with 342 paying and 3 honorary members. We've had 2 new, 2 resignations so current numbers are 342 paying members and 3 honorary.
- Hut sales to date £18,323

● **Site Manager**

- ML thanked DA for cutting perimeter hedges.
- Bonfire:
 - The communal bonfire will not be reinstated and it was agreed that individual plots can now have bonfires and need to also remind we have incinerators available for their use.
 - We need to provide guidance on how to have a bonfire safely and ML to provide MD with info for email.
 - A reminder was also to be made that in the absence of a bonfire it is not acceptable to place items from plots over back fence but it should be composted.
- Current waiting list stands at 12 for plots and 2 for polytunnel. ML to contact / write to those ploholders not using their plots with a view to moving them on. 3 ploholders have spoken with ML about giving up their plots.
- Mower shed keys – only 3 have confirmed all OK.
- Signage on water butts – ML still to action.
- Muntjac and badger issues – still need to look at fencing solutions (see above) and try to block up where badger is entering site at work in.
- Work in – possible tasks include
 - Car Park – drainage / drain covers
 - Paint outbuildings
 - Badger proof site – see above
 - Sink soakaway
 - Plant bulbs around site
 - Fence posts

- **IT**
 - Show webpage update and live.
 - Potato reminder has been sent out to members.
- **Seed Scheme / Capel Capers**
 - As at 15 Sept,
 - 10 orders received for seed potatoes totalling £114 but expect most to arrive nearer deadline. PH has asked MD to send reminder re potatoes.
 - 20 members had ordered seeds online (value £584.40). 3 members had submitted paper forms for seed orders (value £77.80). As no deadline for seeds these figures will increase significantly.
 - Capel Capers – The October submission was issued by the deadline and the November article will be sent early next month. We have been asked to ensure that future articles are no more than 400 words so we will need to rely on general Allotment ‘News’ rather than the traditional gardening tips. (The latter can still be included for the website/monthly newsletter). Unfortunately our submitted photo (of Steve Talmadge’s artwork on the back of Plotters Retreat) was omitted for July/August because of the change of Editor. I have asked the new Editor to reconsider for a future edition.
- **Stores Manager / Hut**
 - Deliveries are booked for 13/9 and 3/10.
 - Onion sets now in stock.
 - Sales in August were down but possibly due to exceptionally hot weather, now improving again.
 - DS requested that the Sumup card machine is turned off when not in use.
 - Delivery costs on compost etc are very high at present. Need to investigate other possible suppliers / method of delivery to keep costs down.

4. General Secretary’s Report

- Attended SSALG Meeting and was informed they may fold as no Secretary / Chairman. Hope to find out more at next meeting but we should receive our grant for the Show.
- TS reported some councils which have waiting lists are currently restricting ploholders to max of 2 plots.

5. Village Show Round Up

- WR went through the comments she had received / circulated regarding the Village Show and a discussion followed on the various items.

6. Any Other Business

- ML rased the fact that maybe we should all be better at sharing surplus seeds / produce and need to let people know that surplus seeds, including started packets can be put into the Hut.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm

Date of next meeting: 28 November 2022

Circulation: General Committee members, SB & notice board.

Signed.....