

Capel St Mary Allotments Association
Minutes of General Committee Meeting
Monday 16 January 2023

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

Apologies: PH, GC

1. Matters Arising from General Committee Meeting – 28 November 2022

- No Parking on Grass signage – ML to action.

2. Chairman's Report

- CH informed the meeting that GC was preparing the year end accounts.

3. Reports

- **Treasurer and Membership Secretary**

- Grand total cash £10,894.26 Total available cash £6,819.51
- Rotovator fund £975.97 Site Maintenance -£1,672.28 (Budget-£1,495.00)
- Mower Fund £5,084.00 Site Capital fund -£495.23
- Membership – Membership Year started (Sept 2022) with 342 paying and 3 honorary members. We've had 6 new, 22 resignations so current numbers are 326 paying members and 3 honorary.
- Hut sales to date £691 Hut Purchases £3,753

- **Site Manager**

- ML wished to thank various people for their help including:
 - DS/MD for washing down polytunnel and isolating water leak.
 - DS for moving Christmas tree, Fixing mower door, reinstating path on Plot 2B
- The site is in good condition presently considering recent weather.
- Currently no waiting list for plots, small one for polytunnel plots. Suggested we put out a post on Facebook about membership etc again in case there are others looking to join/ have a plot. Three plots that were of concern have now been worked.
- A new site map has been produced and put up at various points around site.
- ML raised a point about the paying of membership/plot rental by card and MD explained that the conditions of our contract with the card machine company does not allow this to happen.
- ML presented quotes for fencing of the site to the meeting and will now produce a report to be submitted to Parish Council.
- Composting:
 - ML had acquired some crates which can be used to make compost bins and RB has organised a delivery of pallets to site.
 - Communal grass cuttings can now be placed in compost bin by Mower Shed.
 - A visit by a Master Composter to be arranged.
- DS organising a delivery of bark chippings.
- ML mentioned again the state people are leaving mowers. DA suggested using mulchers to save using grass boxes.
- ML mentioned a pressure washer would be useful to clean mowers and Committee agreed one should be purchased up to value of £250.
- Servicing of machinery to be looked into and check with GL if ride on needs a service.
- Cesspit needs emptying when weather improves and ground firmer.
- Outstanding tasks include drainage on car park, two soakaways and first aid box being placed in toilet.
- Reminder to all of date of Spring Work In – 23 April 2023.

- **IT**
 - Hut 2023 Price List actioned, on website and emailed to members.
 - Site map updated and on website.
 - MD still to action updates on Oasis.
- **Stores Manager / Hut**
 - Winter openings have proved worthwhile with £20 taken in December and £300 in January.
 - DS confirmed there have been various stock deliveries and thanked those who assisted with unloading.
 - DS thanked MD for printing up labels for the Shop which are now in place.
 - DS/RB are liaising regarding planting of various products to be sold outside Hut this year.
 - AKA confirmed majority of dates for manning the Hut now filled and would re-issue list to all.
- **Seed Scheme / Capel Capers**
 - **Seed potatoes** have been successfully distributed with no issues around quality. They a week late arriving due to December's cold-snap. All 186 individual bags now distributed (last year 183 bags) which has generated a profit of £226.60 for the Association (last year £214.63). Thanks to all Liaison members for helping with the deliveries.
 - **Kings Seeds** as of 13 Jan 2023, seeds to the value of £2,422.80 have been ordered (last year's £3,212.45). The final commission figure for seeds will not be known for some weeks, although the total value of seeds ordered looks like it will be down on 2021 levels. The Covid lockdowns in 2021) may have caused higher than usual seed orders in 2021.
 - **Capel Capers**
Article for February's edition has been submitted. March edition to be submitted by 27 January, if anyone has anything to be included, please let PH know.
- **Show Secretary**
 - WR has organised a meeting with CH/AT to discuss this year's Show.
 - WR is in communication with Community Trust regarding booking Hall for Show weekend.
 - WR has written to RHS regarding Banksian Medal (TS also received form to complete re this).
 - Flower Judge – WR looking to find new Judge for this year's Show.
- **General Secretary's Report**
 - TS reminded all about submitting their reports for the AGM.
 - The Site insurance has been renewed as has NAS membership. RHS membership to be renewed as of 1 February. TS mentioned they now offer a discount card.

4. Any Other Business

- WR mentioned a future trip to Kings Seeds which has been booked for 22 June at 6.30pm for 20-25 people.
- DS confirmed the management of the Defibrillator is now being looked after by Andy Proctor,

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Date of next meeting: 6 March 2023

Circulation: General Committee members, SB & notice board.

Signed.....