

Capel St Mary Allotments Association
Minutes of General Committee Meeting
Monday 6 March 2023

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

Apologies: GC, DS

1. Matters Arising from General Committee Meeting – 16 January 223

- No Parking on Grass signage – ML to action.
- Visit by Master Composter – date and visit still to be arranged – ML to action.

2. Chairman's Report

- CH reported he has received a letter regarding Annual Parish Meeting which will take place on 23 March 2023 at 7.30pm. They requested some posters about the Allotment Ass and MD has actioned.
- Regarding request from Felixstowe Allotment Ass for a speaker at their meeting, Beverley Dowsett has agreed to action and any suitable notes to be provided to MD/BD by end of March latest.
- CH thanked ML for his work on the proposal for new site fencing which has now been approved.
- A Capel resident has contacted the Association about the possibility of using his large garden as a 'plot' should we have anyone waiting for an actual plot on site. ML to follow up.

3. Reports

• **Treasurer and Membership Secretary**

- Grand total cash £12,949.91 Total available cash £8,866.66
- Rotovator fund £1,055.97 Site Maintenance -£1,882.35 (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 11 new, 31 resignations so current numbers are 322 paying members and 3 honorary.
- Hut sales to date £3,138 Hut Purchases £4,003

• **Site Manager**

- Pressure washer has now been purchased.
- Bark has been replenished.
- Toilet floor painted and septic tank emptied.
- ML reported that the site condition, particularly for the time of year.
- 2 requests for plots have been received, 2 poly tunnel plots surrendered but these have been offered to 2 ploholders and awaiting confirmation. There are a further 2 people waiting for polytunnel plots.
- As mentioned previously, the new site perimeter fence has been approved and work should commence around 3 April 2023.
- Outstanding items yet to be actioned:
 - Drainage in car park.
 - New water feed to hut.
 - Two new soakaways.
 - Parking signs.
 - First aid kit to be placed in toilet.
- Spring Work In – 23 April 2023. Tasks include:
 - Wash polytunnel.
 - Templates on water butts.
 - Paint wheelbarrows.
 - Check fence posts in nature area.
- DA suggested it may be useful to have a power point on mower shed. ML to look into.

- **IT**
 - A3 Poster actioned for Parish Meeting.
 - MD reported that apart from a few mailings it was generally quiet a present.
- **Stores Manager / Hut**
 - Hut sales are averaging about £375 per weekend. We have taken in the region of £1,900 overall and last Saturday we took £520.
 - New supplies have been ordered to replenish items that have run out or are low on stock. Unfortunately, most new purchases come with price increases.
 - 50lt farmyard manure has been discontinued by the supplier, the new size is 40lt at £4.60.
 - Could all When on Hut Duty, ensure you read the notice board in the shop giving information regarding stock whereabouts and also lock code numbers. Remember to hook back the rear store doors, as they will blow about in the wind.
 - DS thanked all who have helped with the shop so far this year and to Angie for the Hut Rota.
 - Growing of plants has started in the poly tunnel, broad beans, brassicas, beetroot, and leeks have been planted so far. Weather not helping, everything is a bit slow!
 - We have already sold out of Cara and Lady Christl seed potatoes and onion sets.
 - Several items continue to be discontinued; alternatives are having to be found.
 - There will be a Hut delivery on Friday at 8.30am, help is required with unloading.
- **Seed Scheme / Capel Capers**
 - **Kings Seeds** – orders continue to come in. Currently sales at £2,800 (2022 total £3,200)
 - **Capel Capers** - Article for April's edition has been submitted including Hut opening times, Plotolders AGM and 'Save the Date' for Picnic on the Plot and the Village Show.
- **Show Secretary**
 - CH/WR have drafted this year's schedule.
 - WR asked if Photo & Handicraft subjects and show dates could be included in Capel Capers.
 - Agreed we would not have wheelbarrows for fruit, vegetables, flower donations at this year's show as there has been little donated over last two years.
 - Photography competition – suggestion of Steward's placing cards on board was agreed.
 - Judges / Stewards to be reminded to read through instructions prior to arrival on day.
 - WR looking for someone to takeover from PB on contacting judges etc.
 - Kings Trip on 22 June 2023 – 20 tickets are available.
- **General Secretary's Report**
 - RHS Discount card has arrived and is with TS.
 - NAS Monthly Newsletter now being received and included with monthly Allotment Newsletter.
 - SSALG – PB attending next meeting on TS's behalf. Still unsure if we will receive our usual donation for the Show.

4. AGM

- TS has all reports from Committee Members and will finalise report.
- All Committee Members confirmed they were happy to stand again.
- AA agreed to co-ordinate refreshments for the AGM and CH will run the draw.

5. Any Other Business

- DS/RB have started growing plants to be sold outside Hut and are looking for volunteers to assist with the possibility of having a Rota. RB to co-ordinate.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Date of next meeting: 19 June 2023

Circulation: General Committee members, SB & notice board.

Signed.....