

Capel St Mary Allotments Association
Minutes of General Committee Meeting
Monday 25 September 2023

Present: CH, DS, RB, DA, AA, TS, GC, MD

Apologies: WR, ML & PH

1. Matters Arising from General Committee Meeting – 14 August 2023

- There were no Matters Arising from previous Minutes.

2. Chairman's Report

- CH thanked all those involved in this year's Village Show which was a great success and WR will report on the Village Show at the next General Committee Meeting.
- Suggested we produce more vouchers in £5/£10 denominations to sell in the Hut. MD to action and also put on 2024 Price List. AKA to put on Facebook page to advertise ready for Christmas.
- CH has updated the liaison areas and TS to update CH ref new Sanford Estate.
- We have some available funds which could be used to purchase new benches and also replace existing boards in the Nature Area.

3. Reports

- **Treasurer and Membership Secretary**

- Grand total cash £10,884.58 Total available cash £8,735.08
- Rotovator fund £1,085.97 Site Maintenance £1,352.68 (Budget-£2,241)
- Mower Fund £5,528.00 Site Capital fund £4.77
- Membership – Membership Year started (Sept 2022) with 342 paying and 3 honorary members. We've had 2 new members and 3 resignations so current numbers are 341 paying members and 3 honorary.
- Hut sales to date £22,586 Hut Purchases £22,448

- **Site Manager**

- ML thanked RB, DA & GL for grass cutting and general maintenance on site and to DS for filling-in badger holes etc.
- Sceptic tank has been emptied
- Site and plot condition is currently very good.
- Plot-churn – there have been quite a few changes regarding plots with some people surrendering their plots and others moving to different plots. There have also been some changes within the polytunnel. Currently have 4 plots which will be available and 1 polytunnel plot and we have people on the waiting list to be contacted to take these on. Should we get more surrendered when we ask for plot rentals the Committee felt that then/early 2024 would be the best time to contact current ploholders about possible tenants/advertise on Facebook etc.
- Plot-creep - Some tenants are using weed-killer around the boundary of their plots which causes the grass edges to collapse and the plot then gets larger. ML to contact owners of such plots to discuss and also would like MD to include this in next newsletter.
- We currently have a full complement of mowers available for plot holders. The tractor-mower will be serviced at the end of the growing season.
- Drainage from the BBQ and Plotters Retreat. Still awaiting quote from Steve Prior.
- Wildlife cameras not yet actioned. Committee suggested ML speak to Mick Webb as he may be able to help on this.
- Water harvesting – still investigating possibilities and will discuss with Will Woodhall (plot 11B) as this is his specialist subject. Suggest a borehole is discussed at next Exec Meeting.
- Autumn Work In – 22 October 223

- **IT**
 - Village Show – there were no technical issues this year and WR has a few enhancements to discuss with MD.
 - MD/CH to discuss computerising space allocation for next year’s Show.
 - Website has been updated for Show and includes photos.
 - Site Map has been updated and was distributed at meeting
- **Stores Manager / Hut**
 - Sales remain good and stock levels currently high due increased purchases from current supplier before they cease trading. An alternative supplier will need to be sourced.
 - DS gave an update on availability of peat compost which should be available until December 2024 and this may be further reviewed.
 - DS thanked all who had helped in the Hut this year and confirmed Hut would be opening on 2nd Sat in Nov, Dec and Jan again.
- **Seed Scheme / Capel Capers**
 - Potato scheme - Orders are trickling in (about a dozen so far). Most tend to arrive shortly before the cut-off date (20 Oct) so the rush is still to come. We still intend to combine our order with Felixstowe Allotment Association’s to avoid any delivery charges. PH to arrange with MD to circulate a reminder first week of October, two weeks before the close date.
 - Seed scheme - Around £330 has been ordered direct by members through the Kings scheme so far. In addition 5 paper forms have been received (and we’re expecting at least 5 others).
 - Capel Capers – October article submitted and November’s article will be sent next week on return from holiday.
- **Village Show**
 - WR wished to thank the Committee for all their help towards another great Village Show and it made a profit.
 - WR has completed the comments sheet and will send out prior to next meeting for discussion. Most of the comments are reminders for WR/MD for next year’s Show.
 - Regarding a volunteer for organising the Judges for next year Jenny Hickley has offered and WR was pleased to accept this offer. WR to meet with Jenny to action a handover.
 - WR has received a couple of complaints and will discuss this in a little more detail at next meeting and seek advice from the Committee.
- **General Secretary’s Report**
 - TS had received a request from a lady who visited the Village Show for a speaker at their meeting. TS to reply and invite their group to come to visit the allotments in the Spring.
 - TS asked GC if we had received the donation for the Show from SALG and he confirmed we had.

4. **Any Other Business**

- AKA mentioned Capel School were looking to set up a garden at the school and suggested we could possibly assist. MD suggested AKA speak with BD as a Governor at the school and then see how we could proceed.
- GC had been asked by a Capel resident if they could sell pots outside the Hut for charity. Agreed, but they would be responsible for a money pot and placing a sign so people knew what charity the money was going to.
- Suffolk Show 2024 – Theme “Grow Your Own”. TS to find out more and see how we could assist.

Meeting closed at 8.35 pm

Date of next meeting: 27 November 2023

Circulation: General Committee members, SB & notice board.

Signed.....