

Capel St Mary Allotments Association

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting

Date: Monday 16th October 2023

Location: Plotters' Retreat

Present: CH, DS, TL, ML

Apologies GC

1. Minutes of Exec meeting of Mon 17th April 2023

No matters arising.

2. Chairman -CH

Further discussion regarding an understudy to shadow **GC** in his role as Treasurer and Membership Secretary. **GC** has suggested it would be a good idea to have somebody shadowing in the coming months to gain a full insight into the roles.

Brief discussion re budget to be presented at next ManCom. Figures initially left the same as last year, but after discussion it was agreed to adjust some of the figures upwards prior to meeting the PC. Also discussed if we should ask PC to pay some of the utilities; discussed water and electricity bills – could PC get better rates as a larger organisation? Water meter readings will start to be taken monthly after the mix up by water company with recent bills – this will allow us to get a better understanding of usage.

3. Site Manager – ML

ML advised there is currently no waiting list, and all plots are taken. Discussed a badger-proofing idea to be trialled in one area where they are digging under new fencing. This will be put in place at next work in along with various other jobs **ML** has put together. **TS** apologised for not being able to make next work in, as did **CH**.

New sign being designed for entrance to site with key contact and safety info on it – will ask PC if they are happy for us to proceed.

ML also outlined what he will report on at the Mancom. This includes water collection from polytunnel. Also highlighted areas of further discussion needed including grey water issue raised by PC at last ManCom meeting and whether any action is really needed. Also ask for clarification on why PC did not want the site locked up dusk to dawn.

4. Treasurer & Membership – GC

Figures will be provided at next GenCom meeting.

5. Hut Manager – DS

CH asked **DS** if he would like to join next ManCom – **DS** accepted.

Advised sales are still going well. **DS** is now buying online from various sites looking for best deals. Further brief discussion on peat free – **TS** mentioned Ipswich Allotments had been doing trials with Melcourt SylvaGrow this year and recommended as a peat free

alternative. **DS** will continue to order as much peat based as he can as we can now sell until end 2024. Will give more time to source alternatives.

6. Secretary – TS

TS asked if plot rentals are to be discussed at ManCom – **CH** confirmed it would be discussed and further action taken as necessary.

TS discussed vermin issues on site and suggested matter needs to be taken in hand so to control the issue – mentioned how many voles/mice have been seen recently and how people had commented this season on loss of crops – aside from the badger issue we are already aware of. Discussion re baiting – **DS** to look into - particularly in the polytunnels.

DS also mentioned that keeping plots tidy and rubbish to a minimum will help deter pests.

7. AOB

New lock on main front gate as previous was getting worn. 2 lights on sales hut to be changed – security light and side light.

Bin day is now a Friday for the site.

Circulation: AA, DA, RB, GC, MD, CH, PH, ML, WR, DS, TS, SB and notice board.

Signed