

Capel St Mary Allotments Association
Minutes of General Committee Meeting
Monday 4 December 2023

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

1. Matters Arising from General Committee Meeting – 25 September 2023

- Wildlife Cameras – CH still to contact Mick Webb.
- Drainage from BBQ area / Plotters Retreat – ML still to follow up.

2. Chairman's Report

- CH mentioned NAS membership and this to be raised by TS later in the meeting.
- Still need to discuss / action succession planning for Committee.
- We have yet to agree ways of spending the available funds on items / projects on site.

3. Reports

• **Treasurer and Membership Secretary**

- Grand total cash £11,182.05 Total available cash £5,717.05
- Rotovator fund £1,085.97 Site Maintenance £746.76 (Budget-£2,241)
- Mower Fund £5,528.00 Site Capital fund £504.77
- Membership – Membership Year started (Sept 2022) with 342 paying and 3 honorary members. We've had 7 new members and 9 resignations so current numbers are 340 paying members and 3 honorary.
- Hut sales to date £25,397 Hut Purchases £29,471
- CH thanked GC on his work regarding getting renewal payments in.
- ML/DS mentioned the electricity contract and costs. Need to re-negotiate contract when due to ensure we are getting the best prices as currently seem very high.

• **Show Secretary**

- CH & ML gave a wrote of thanks to WR for all her hard work on the Show and she appreciated their comments.
- WR mentioned that the rate to hire the Hall next year will be increasing.
- WR issued a list of comments from this year's show which were discussed.
- It had been mentioned that serving the refreshments on stage could be a Health & Safety issue and also need to address how we accommodate / assist any visitors to the show that are disabled.
- WR is to have a handover meetings with Jenny Hickley as she will be taking over the Judges from Philippa Brandon.

• **Site Manager**

- ML apologised for not having been on site as regularly recently due to other commitments.
- ML thanked DS for his support and also DA for work carried out prior to the Work In.
- ML has patched up the shed roof and this will be re-roofed in the Spring.
- Plots – currently 5 on the waiting list with 2 plots available.
- Plot rents to be increased from January 25 – no feedback received on this to date.
- Jobs outstanding – ML still to place order for new site signage and look into sourcing more benches on site rather than picnic furniture.
- Drainage from the BBQ and Plotters Retreat. Need to follow up with Steve Prior.
- ML still to investigate possibility of water harvesting from the polytunnel.
- Badgers – no evidence of any further damage at present. We do need to keep on top of other vermin issues.
- Need to plan for polytunnel clean down and using sulphur candles to eradicate whitefly.

- **IT**
 - £5 / £10 vouchers are now available from the Hut. AA to put post on Facebook page to advertise.
 - CH gave a vote of thanks to MD for his work on the OASIS show system.
- **Stores Manager / Hut**
 - Hut sales were good and stocks are being maintained at a high level to ensure we get best available prices.
 - Some shelving has been replaced as was getting rotten.
 - DS thanked AA for actioning the Hut Rota and asked her to do again for 2024.
- **Seed Scheme / Capel Capers**
 - Potato scheme – as mentioned previously these are being sourced jointly with Felixstowe Allotments to ensure best price as we now have to buy from an alternative supplier. To date 71 orders placed (62 in 2022) for total of 213 bags (186 in 2022). Total order of £857 should generate approx. £271 in commission as against £226 in 2022. Due to arrive w/c 17 Dec.
 - Seed orders to date good. 75 orders against 71 in 2022 for the same period. Total orders £3028 against £2790 last year. Commission should be over £500 again this year.
 - Capel Capers – January submission has been placed.
- **General Secretary's Report**
 - Letters advising plot rental increase have been sent out.
 - Still awaiting annual insurance renewal details.
 - 2024 Calendar issued and approved.
 - Banksian Meal now ordered for Village Show 2024.
 - SSALG AGM took place 2 weeks ago and looks as if it will fold due to no Committee. They will be suspended for 3 months before making a decision. They are unhappy as not receiving any support from NAS.
 - NAS Membership discussed – should we continue to be affiliated as receive little support. Need to look at any advantages eg Seed Scheme before deciding.
 - Need to look at what we do with old copies of Minutes – do we offer them to Ipswich Records Office? TS to enquire if they would like them.

4. **Any Other Business**

- Teresa Bloomfield has contacted GC to let him know she raised £80 for charity from the sale of her pots and wished to thank us for letting her sell them at the Hut.
- AA and BD visited Capel School about their Garden Club they wish to set up. Met with the Caretaker and suggested a working party from the Allotments could go in and clear the site and prepare ready for planting etc in the Spring. AA to ask if we can go in on a Saturday morning and will advise Committee once a date agreed.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Date of next meeting: 15 January 2024

Circulation: General Committee members, SB & notice board.

Signed.....