

Capel St Mary Allotments Association
Minutes of General Committee Meeting
Monday 29 July 2024

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

ACTION

1. Matters Arising from General Committee Meeting – 4 March 2024

- TS/AKA still to talk with SW regarding sorting items in shed so we can use for storage. **TS/AA**
- ML still to talk with PC regarding possible additional toilet. **ML**
- 3 new benches now purchased from Nelson Potter.
- WR to purchase new banner for Village Show. ML suggested Signs4U in Ipswich. **WR**
- Wildlife area has been looked at and tidied but it was agreed further work to take place at the October Work In.
- MD has added additional people who can post on Allotment Facebook page.
- RB has sent out details of the peat free trial.
- PH has contacted Felixstowe regarding potato order.
- AA met with the School re their garden area and is awaiting response to her email as to how we can help.

2. Chairman's Report

- CH gave a vote of thanks to all who helped with the Picnic on the Plot which was a great success.
- Liaison areas were discussed, and MR agreed to take on area 15.

3. Treasurer and Membership Secretary

- Grand total cash £16,783.53 Total available cash £14,650.03
- Rotovator fund £1,165.97 Site Maintenance £557.26 (Budget-£2,241)
- Mower Fund £5,972.00 Site Capital fund £1,222.79
- Membership
 - Membership Year started (Sept 2023) with 339 paying and 3 honorary members. New members to date are 48 and 15 resignations therefore current numbers are 372 paying members and 3 honorary.
- Hut sales to date £23,370 Hut Purchases £12,451
- Picnic on the Plot Draw raised £163.90 and after discussion it was agreed to donate the profit of £80 to Capel Parish Nurses.

4. Village Show

- An email has been sent to remind all members about the Village Show and the need for more helpers but more still needed. **ALL**
- WR went through the jobs responsibilities and the timetable for set up of the Show.
- AA has sent emails to other local allotment associations to advise them about the Show so they can distribute to members to try to increase entries and AA/RB have posted information on various Facebook sites. WR thanked AA for her assistance with social media.

5. Reports

- **Site Manager**
 - ML thanked all for their assistance in making the site look particularly good at present.
 - Pest Control – work ongoing and also looking into the possibility of some feral cats on site.
 - Looking to put wire netting around tool shed base to deter rabbits from burrowing and checking other areas for signs.

- Plan to do further work on nature area at Work In.
- Have sourced a possible new supplier to empty septic tank.
- Carried out various repairs on site to taps etc and this work is ongoing.
- Some picnic benches need repairing and this to be actioned at the Work In.
- Electric mower is in for repair again.
- ML informed the Committee of the sad news about the passing of Kev Carrington, one of our ploholders.
- Currently have 1 plot available and 6 on the waiting list but no polytunnel plots available or required at present.
- ML to speak to the PC about the concrete breaking up in the car park. **ML**
- **IT**
 - MD has actioned various mailing since the last meeting.
 - MD to action all the necessary printing for the Village Show. **MD**
 - Website for Show entries to be open from 1 August 2024. **MD**
 - Printing for potato orders to be actioned. **MD**
- **Stores Manager / Hut**
 - Hut sales continue to be good.
 - Almost all plants grown have now been sold
 - RB confirmed that the turnover on plants was £4,288 with a net profit of £2,046.
 - DS thanked all who have assisted with the Hut this year.
 - Have recently had a major delivery of compost etc.
 - DS mentioned it would be helpful to have a fork lift truck or hand pallet truck for large deliveries and looking into this and DA also said he would make enquiries. **DS/DA**
- **Seed Scheme / Capel Capers**
 - PH contacted Felixstowe Allotments about potato ordering and we will again be combining orders.
 - Prices for 2024/25 have gone up quite a lot and timings for orders as per last year.
 - Seed catalogues – as we will receive significantly less this year it was suggested all ploholders/postal members who ordered last year automatically receive a catalogue and any others requests will receive one if we have any remaining catalogues.
 - Capel Capers actioned.
- **General Secretary**
 - Insurance – TS reported that our Public Liability Insurance does cover any persons on site irrespective of age. This also covers us for events.

6. Any Other Business

- MR reported that the recent site visit by the Brownies was a great success. Maybe we could put something about site visits in our next newsletter / Facebook posts.
- DA has started to re-furbish the large trailer.

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Date of next meeting: 23 September 2024

Circulation: General Committee members, SB & notice board.

Signed.....