

COTTONMILL AND NUNNERY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting on Wednesday 15th May 2019 The White Lion, Sopwell Lane, St Albans

PRESENT:

Keith Reynolds (Chairman)
Terry Beckett (Cottonmill Plot Officer; Treasurer)
Janet Wyatt (Secretary)
Michelle Mackenzie (Facebook Administrator)
Paul Littlewood (Assistant Plot Officer, Cottonmill)
Brian Gilson (Nunnery 1 Plot Officer)

APOLOGIES:

Jane Ridge (Nunnery 2 Plot Officer)
Maria Jose Martin (Sopwell Plot Officer)
Jane Fookes (Newsletter Editor)
Erica Weindorf (Project Officer)

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting on 5th February 2019 were agreed as an accurate record. These will now be placed on the CNAA website.

2. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME TO NEW COMMITTEE

The Chairman welcomed the new Committee elected at the AGM. As explained at the AGM the roles of Plot Officer and Site Representative have become intertwined and the title Plot Officer or Assistant Plot Officer will now be used, subsuming the former Site Representative activities.

3. ACTION UPDATE and MATTERS ARISING

All actions completed and no matters arising.

4. REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported an income of £950 at 15th May 2019, £920 of which comes from membership fees. So far there has been little expenditure (£50) and with the balance brought forward from 2018 the account shows a balance of £2971.

Membership

At the time of the meeting the membership was 104 including one life member. Cottonmill has 63 members, Nunnery 1 has 11, Nunnery 2 has 22 and Sopwell has 8 members. Whilst these figures are good for so early in the year, almost equally the total for the whole of last year, the

Committee discussed how to increase the overall numbers of members given that the figure for Cottonmill, for example, is that only 50% of plots hold membership. BG asked for a list of members for Nunnery 1 so that he can approach some of the plot holders (**action TB**) and it was discussed putting flyers onto plots where membership was not held. **MM agreed to put together some wording for use on Facebook** which may be used to encourage more membership and this could be set out on flyers. Advertising the Summer Show to non-members so that they can see what CNAA does was also discussed but no decision taken.

5. Site reports

Cottonmill

There are 10 vacancies, 10 on the waiting list and 14 Non-cultivation orders (NCOs) going out.

Nunnery 1

There is one vacancy on Nunnery 1 and no-one on the waiting list.

Nunnery 2

There are no vacancies and three on the waiting list.

Sopwell

No report available.

BG and TB discussed ways in which the state of abandoned plots might be improved and help in re-letting. Whilst the Council does trim plots that have been left it is purely cosmetic. BG advocated getting weed suppressant membrane to be laid down pending a plot being re-let. This would be SADC property and retained for future use by Plot Officers. Also, there are issues of boundary creep that need clarification and poor numbering systems that are also a responsibility for SADC to resolve. **Action BG & TB to send request to SADC regarding these three matters.**

6. Communications.

- Facebook page is being used - nothing unusual to report.
- A Newsletter is due in June and the following content identified at this meeting will be passed to JF by JW. **Action: JW**
 - ◆ Chairman's corner - KR asked to be chased for his contribution. **Action JF**
 - ◆ List of Committee members elected at the AGM
 - ◆ AGM minutes now on website in members area to be viewed, summarise Ver Project update as in AGM minutes.
 - ◆ Reiterate fox warning
 - ◆ Changes to Rules issued by SADC about allotments- 75% cultivation required otherwise NCO issued and bonfires allowed from October to end of April weekly on Tuesdays and Saturdays after 12-00.
 - ◆ RHS benefits - **Action TB to summarise**
 - ◆ NAS benefits - **Action TB to summarise**

- ◆ Irene's Aylett's plastic re-cycling piece
 - ◆ Open day - very successful - 27 visitors to Cottonmill and some went to Nunnery. Thanks to MM for organising and all who helped show people around. Two new District Councillors amongst visitors (Emma Matanle and Mandy McNeil).
 - ◆ Summer Show - 1st September - and to include entry forms and categories? Pick out any changes e.g pumpkins moved to Autumn Festival and narrower definition of squash (suggested just butternut squash and other Squash to Autumn Festival). **Action JW to circulate category list for review by committee and ask John Boden if he will judge.**
 - ◆ Marjorie Ronald's 100th birthday in July
- The position of Website Administrator is still vacant, with JR covering essential activities such as loading items. She has agreed to continue doing this and the Committee extends its thanks to her. JR will seek further training from Juliet Foxwell to cover some other functions. **Action JR**

7. VER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

There has been no change since the report provided at the AGM and recorded in the minutes which are now on the Website. Two Lib Dem Councillors who visited Cottonmill at the open day wish to meet with the Ver Sub-group. **Action JW to find dates for this meeting.**

It is clear from the meeting KR had with SADC that the priority is the state of the lake, with Reaches 4, 5 & 6 now being in phase two. BG expressed his view that the state of the lake was due to long term lack of maintenance of sluices/silt removal and KR added, lack of water up-stream.

PL intends to send a detailed critique of the proposals set out in the Feasibility Study document to SADC and EA. **Action PL.**

AOB

- Marjories Ronald, who has only just given up her plot, will be 100 on 5th July and Irene Jacobson wishes to celebrate the event with a party on 29/30 June. It was agreed that CNAA would make her an honorary member, create a certificate (**action MM**) and offer to buy a cake and flowers. CNAA email distribution list can be used to invite all members. **Action KR to contact IJ to give her this information.**
- The successful open day prompted a request to hold another one and we will look for an opportunity, mindful of the insurance restrictions.
- TB will send an email to those members who paid their membership directly but without completing a form so not explicitly consenting to their data being sent to NAS, asking for confirmation with an assumption of consent if no reply by a deadline date. **Action TB**
- Sadleir Rd resident has complained to SADC about noisy strimmers. **Action BG** to put up general notice about strimmers at the weekend-be considerate.

- Nunnery sites are being inspected under the Green Flag scheme as part of Sopwell Open Space.
- TB is offering two cups to be used for the Summer Show and it was suggested that using them to promote the Newcomer and Children's categories might be a good use for them.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, August 12th 2019 at 19-30 in the White Lion, Sopwell Lane.

Action Summary

Membership	BG requested list for Nunnery.	TB	
	Wording to promote membership for Facebook and ? flyers	MM	
Improvements to sites	email to SADC about covering vacant plots, reviewing boundaries and numbering	TB/BG	
June Newsletter	Advise JF of content.	JW	
	Chase KR for Chairman's corner	JF	
	Summery of RHS and NAS benefits	TB	
Summer Show	Circulate category list for review and ask John Boden if he will judge.	JW	
Website	Contact Juliet Foxwell for additional training	JR	
Ver Project	Find date for meeting of Ver Sub-group with Lib Den Councillors.	JW	
	Critique of current plans	PL	

100th birthday	Send email to Irene Jacobson.	KR	
	Prepare honorary membership certificate	MM	
Data release	Confirmation by members who have not signed forms	TB	
Use of strimmers	Notices on Nunnerly to remind about being considerate to others.	BG	