

# **COTTONMILL AND NUNNERY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**

## **Minutes of the Committee Meeting on Monday 24th May 2021 Held through ZOOM**

### **PRESENT:**

Terry Beckett (Treasurer, membership Secretary and Acting Chair)  
Janet Wyatt (Secretary)  
Michelle Mackenzie (Facebook Administrator)  
Jane Ridge (Nunnery 2 Plot Officer)  
Brian Gilson (Nunnery 1 Plot Officer)  
Clare Norman (Sopwell Mill Plot Officer)  
Margaret Harris (Cottonmill Plot Officer)  
Paul Littlewood (Assistant Plot Officer, Cottonmill)  
Jim Standen (Sopwell Mill Plot Officer)  
Louise Wiseman (Newsletter Editor)  
Erica Weindorf (Project Officer)  
Keith Reynolds (Ver related project)

### **1.APOLOGIES: None**

**2.** The minutes of the meeting on 23rd March 2021 were agreed as an accurate record. These will now be placed on the CNAA website.

### **3. ACTION UPDATE and MATTERS ARISING**

- Joint Area Committee, TB has received information from previous CNAA Chair, Alison Shipperlee, which does not give much detail of the previous operation of this group. It was agreed that in the event that an issue arises which would be useful to discuss with other allotment representatives, this would be done on a case by case basis.
- Plot allocation-the Committee feels strongly that how plots are allocated when they become vacant should be transparent and members are concerned that there doesn't seem to be a published policy, other than set out in the Rules. The main issues are
  - ❖ plot holders asking for additional plots, are they being told to join the waiting list. as required by the Rules
  - ❖ co-worker status-whilst sustained support helping another plot holder might justify the plot changing hands there needs to be clarity on how long this should be to qualify for the transfer (SADC Rule 2.7 states that an application to take over would be considered on a case by case basis-should this be strengthened with a statement of qualifying period to prevent attempts to jump the queue by helping another plot holder for a short time?)

- ❖ Offering another plot in the same site due to extenuating circumstances (such as a plot holder needing easier access following mobility issues) to an existing plot holder should be agreed as an exception as this retains a vacant plot. However, the recent flooding on Cottonmill has raised a question about this option as some plots may be deemed at risk of severe flooding and not attractive to an applicant so reducing the plots available.

**Action - TB to contact Phil Bruce-Green (PB-G) to discuss these issues**

#### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP**

The account summary for 24th May 2021 is attached and shows a net income for the year so far of £1095. TB explained the item of Kings Seeds refund of £6.45 as a member failed to receive some of their order. Membership is currently 105.

#### **5. SITE REPORTS**

##### **Nunnery 1**

There are 25 on the waiting list and no vacancies. PB-G has resumed visits and 9 plot holders were given NCOs and 5 given notice to quit.

BG raised a concern over a recent weedkiller spraying incident where one plot was treated extensively with Gallup 360 by someone who maintains the Parish Allotment site at London Colney. This product is to be banned from use at the end of 2023 but using it in a confined space adjacent to other plots is of concern and it is suggested that the Council are urged to bring this ban on use forward on its allotments.

**Action: TB to discuss with PB-G at their next meeting.**

##### **Nunnery 2**

There are 31 on the waiting list and no vacancies. Three plots have been let recently in the organic area. There were 7 uncultivated plots on Nunnery 2 when P B-G did his inspection. Three became available immediately and have been let, JR is waiting for the results on the other 4.

##### **Sopwell**

After a recent visit PB-G has issued 12 NCOs and one notice to quit.

Plans for the communal areas are going well with a small narrow plot having a tree, seating and pond installed or planned. The poor fencing alongside the main communal area is being strengthened by asking plot holders for donations of trees and shrubs.

## **Cottonmil.**

There are 3 vacant plots but the waiting list figure is unclear. The plot Officers are asking to delay the planned visit by PB-G as some of the plots are still water-logged and it has not been possible for some plots to be walked on or cleared yet.

## **6. COMMUNICATIONS.**

Facebook use is at about the same level and ticking along.

Website has been updated with recent documents from the AGM and the May Newsletter will be added. **Action - JR**

Newsletter. Everyone welcomed LW as the new Newsletter Editor and thanked her for an excellent May Newsletter. LW asked when the next one was due and was told we aim for 4 a year. She is happy to gather content from the Committee.

## **7. USE FOR SURPLUS FUNDS IN CNAА ACCOUNTS**

- This item was raised at the recent AGM, with a suggestion that it could be used to replace the communal shed on Cottonmill. This is potentially an issue as the funds derive from members on all sites and not just one. The Nunnery shed is used by CNAА members and also stores CNAА items such as the awning. The shed on Cottonmill is full of CNAА items, a lot used for the Summer Show. The communal shed on Cottonmill is in a very poor state and is hardly used at all. It was agreed it should be demolished and there was no need for a replacement. (No action agreed). The Council had supplied the corrugated iron sheds on Cottonmill and Nunnery and it was suggested that Sopwell might ask for one too. **Action - CN/JS.**
- Other suggestions include putting more money into prizes at the next Summer Show, replacement of hedge on Nunnery 2 with native plants, buying pump (rejected on grounds of storage and maintenance in favour of hiring should one be needed). Members are to be asked to come up with ideas to enhance CNAА's work by proposing projects that they might like it to support. This will be an item in the next Newsletter and will encourage proposals with some details for consideration by the Committee. **Action-LW**

## **8.RECOVERY PLAN FOR COTTONMILL**

- MH is pressing for more wood chip and compost delivery and wants to press for more help from the Council for those plots still inaccessible or now abandoned but recognises the Council is short of funding.
- There is a meeting planned for 7th June between EA, SADC and Plot Officers to discuss options for strengthening the river bank. Volunteers have already approached MH offering to help with the work. CNAА recognises that PB-G is doing a lot to help the plot holders affected by the flooding even with a high work load himself and getting the meeting

organised with EA has not been easy for him to achieve. CNAA is committed to working with him to improve allotments on all sites and believes that helping to propose solutions is helpful to achieve our aims.

- KR is liaising with Affinity Water to obtain one more day of pumping.
- Contact with Daisy Cooper- her Office has contacted KR to see if things were alright and he told them, no. Pressure on senior Councillors and DC to be maintained.

## **9.SUMMER SHOW**

This item is postponed to the next meeting.

### **Action-JW to include on next agenda**

### **AOB**

- Rubbish is being left at the gate of Nunnery - rubbish removal is an issue on all sites and the Council will not provide this service although O'Connors may be willing to collect in a lorry. Also, maybe groups of plot holders should be encouraged to make private arrangements by grouping together for a collection.
- LW suggested we try Google Meets for our next meeting as it does not have a 40 minute time limit but several members said they found it unsatisfactory. If the weather permits we are going to try to hold an outside meeting rather than using Zoom.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

TBA

## Action Summary

Website	Arrange to take over monitoring emails received through website	Juliet Foxwell to action	On-going
Website hosting invoice	Ask Juliet Foxwell to arrange change of email to TB's	Juliet Foxwell to action	on-going
CNAA Membership	Promote membership amongst plot holders	Plot Officers	
Plot allocation	Raise with PB-G to ask for Council's policy on plot allocation.	TB	
Weed killer use	Raise bringing forward ban on use of Gallup 360 with PB-G	TB	
Website	Add May Newsletter	JR	
Sheds	Sopwell to ask PB-G for an iron shed like those given to Nunnery and Cottonmill	CN/JS	
Use of funds	Prepare item for next Newsletter inviting proposals from members	LW	
Summer Show	Include on next agenda	JW	