

Minutes taken at the committee meeting of the Ashford Allotment Society on Wednesday September 13th 2017

Present P Winston, Sue Haste, Tony Fagg, Brian Stamp, Geoff Button, Alison Tickle, Christine Green, Stefan Heathfield, Geraldine Goringe.

Apologies for absence: Emma Dew, Jonathan Goodwin, Brenda Raggett, Carol Ridings, Mark Chandler.

Jennie -Claire who is from Beaver Field, is a potential rep as Colin Leek has resigned but would find meetings difficult.

Mark Cooper has resigned from William Road.

Minutes of the last meeting

This was postponed from May/June due to the elections both national and local, so prior to that meeting was our AGM IN January. I propose to take the minutes as a true and accurate record of this meeting. A few brief notes were made in May from those who has submitted reports.

Minutes taken by the Chair

Chair's opening remarks

Welcome, and in brief, we have had a successful 6 months in terms of good weather for this growing season. Many plots have produced excellent and abundant produce. Thank you to all who came to support and even exhibited at our Summer Show. See further information in the Report.

We had our most successful stall ever at the Pilgrims Hospice fête raising £328 for this deserving charity we are proud to support each year despite terrible rain and a hail storm. Next year the fête will be on the Saturday 4th August so keep it free and come along and more importantly donate all those extra vegetable fruit and amazing jams and preserves.

Plot judging took place over two days at the end of June and thanks to Sue, Brenda, Geraldine and Eileen who helped with the judging process. It was good to see so many fantastic plots and congratulations to David Coleman and David Botting for best plot holders and best newcomer Carol Longley.

We now turn to all those Autumn jobs that need doing to keep the plots in good shape for next year.

Thank you to all site reps and committee members for their hard work and commitment to our Society throughout this Year.

Show Secretary's report.

Our summer show was a great success with 144 entries and the RHS judge Janine Doulton was impressed with our high quality entries and wonderful examples of plants, flowers, fruit and

vegetables . We enjoyed the teas and sold over 500 raffle tickets for a chance to win wonderful prizes donated by local companies. A good profit was made of £162 pounds and congratulations to David Botting for the overall best in show (gladioli) best vegetables :Tony Fagg, best fruit David Kidd , best cake / preserve Nathan Haywood, best handicraft Sue Cottrell . Thank you to all who entered classes and supported this event ,We presented the certificates for the plot judging and it was good to see so many newcomers enjoying the challenges of allotment gardening .

Trading Store Manger report

In trading £ 4715 was taken and £4802 spent currently with a stock take to be done soon

Geoff highlighted a problem with the potato orders as they had to go out so early by email rather than with invoices to get the discount. Only 20 received, compared to 48 last year,.There were concerns some without the internet were not being reached.

Kings Seeds catalogues are in and need to be back by November 8th .

Have approx. 106 members and membership and with a £3,00 fee it was debated whether we should change our insurance to a cheaper option but still with the same benefits with The Allotments and Gardens Council (UK)

Geoff proposed and Tony seconded the motion to change.

5 were in favour none against so for 2018 onwards we will change.

Stefan pointed out there was no discount for loyalty any more.

Treasurer report

Income

No1 account bank	£2513.62
No1 account float	£ 26.73
No 1 account total	<u>£2540.35</u>

Income

No2 account bank	£3263.66
No2 account cash	£ 272.21
No2 account	£ 15.83(credit note from cropwatch)
No2 account Total	<u>£3551.70</u>

Total assets

£6092.05

Summer Show 2017

Entrance fees	£49.20
Raffle	£51.00
Kitchen sales	£119.95
Float +	£26.73
Total	£246.88
Expenses	£52.90
Float -	£26.73
<u>Total Profit</u>	<u>£162.75</u>

Publicity Officer report

An article was carried in the KM about the allotment show, apologies that no results were included, the KM published without taking our submitted results or photo's into account.

The pumpkin show posters have been created and distributed, KM have been sent details, and details added to all social media channels as well as the website and newsletters.

Website Manager report

Not too much to report. Website is running fine and being kept up to date with info as requested. On my last visit to the seed shed there were some questions from the team there about dates being wrong which have been checked. Now we're into October I will repeat last years email drip campaign to promote the Pumpkin show along with any other newsletters/info people want to get out there. A while back it was mentioned that some site reps wished to display some of the photos of examples of good/bad plot upkeep – this is no problem to action this, but will need some photos sent through.

Site reps report

Westrees:- Still the problem of uncultivated plots

Geraldine will do site inspections /surveys after Christmas

Problems of Aspire and grass cutting hedge cutting which was raised by most sites.

Alison and Geraldine are to 'service sites' and prioritise work for Aspire to give a monthly job list

Musgrove Farm:-4 vacant plots 2 actioned last week for repossession. Problem of a new lock that has been put on the gate by a tenant. Still too many unsightly plots

Gas house:- Again unkempt plots and the length of time taken to speed up repossession. Stefan advocated a first warning to go out with the invoices but Alison said she did not want this..

Stefan could mow a vacant plot but won't. .He pressed for more evictions. Alison said evictions

have to be done through a process.

Cryol:-One plot not being worked, This has been actioned. Problems of the Main Gate where the gate has dropped so the latch is difficult to move.

Burton;-Things have slowed down with the shorter days, No problems at present.

Bybrook;- Plea for mowing to be done most plots are being worked well apart from 4c2
Uncultivated but some are not really in a good condition. The gate has dropped. The notice board is useless.

Henwood :- 10A was missing tools but were they left lying around . If a crime then the police need to be informed. someone was on the waiting list for 4 years ? can site reps have feedback when a problem is highlighted to ABC.

Alison agreed to acknowledge emails sent in by reps.

Water and hose pipes was discussed. Only way to stop hoses would be to file /saw off the brass threaded ring on the tap. Water will be turned off on 1st October. Meter readings will be possible soon . Alison to research what is common practice in other boroughs.

Notice boards:-Most are useless with no plastic/ too small plastic sheets etc.

It would cost a £100 a notice board to replace and the Society does not have these funds.

Stefan said this is a waste of money, could an alternative to perspex be found.

Water signs for no hoses were distributed.

ABC report

Geraldine gave out a list of 116 on waiting list total tenants 553 and then individual vacancies and plots taken per site. She would provide copies for the future meetings.

Working Party

A new booklet for the terms and conditions was distributed to the committee to go out for new tenants with a one page agreement.

The booklet said water would be off from 31st October Alison to check /amend

AOB

Problem of abuse from tenants was discussed. Any abuse should be reported to ABC and it will be logged .

Problem of weight limit for the road to the trading store? it is not reasonable for Tony and Geoff to lift potatoes and composts, it was felt the road should be able to take over 7.5 tonnes trucks as concrete was delivered when the trading store was built

Next meeting **Wednesday 24th January 6.30 Committee Room 2.** The AGM will be first, followed by the committee meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.30 pm