

## Minutes 11 July 2019, Osney, St Thomas & New Botley Allotments Association committee

Attending: Sue, Pól, Jude, Anne, Sheila, Nick, Paul, Cathy

Apologies: Phil, Janet

1. Minutes of 9 May declared accurate. **Action:** Nick to redact and post on the website

Matters arising:

- The provisional date for the AGM 2020 was agreed April 28 **Action:** Jude to check availability of room.

### 2. Financial report

- Sheila is considering giving up her allotment plot and therefore would no longer be a member after September. Nick has received one or two offers of interest in stepping in as Treasurer. **Action:** Nick to take this further
- Nick reported that the accounts were healthy and we are on track to get the Thames Water grant.
- He also reported that we have had to pay legal fees the advice we took regarding the proposed exchange of allotment land at Botley Meadow but that the EA would pay it back (which they have since done).
- Nick suggested changing banks to Co-op and he, Cathy and Phil would be signatories.
- **Action:** Jude would chase Colin and Susannah for shortfall of grant monies promised.
- **Action:** Phil to purchase hardcore aggregate to use up previous OCC grant money.

### 3. OxFAS Flood scheme update

- Issues have arisen that have slowed scheme (challenges to CPOs, railway bridgeworks etc.)
- It is unlikely that the work will now start until 2020 at the earliest.

### 4. BM update

- Nick reported that there were 8 spaces in the polytunnel (all currently taken) and members pay £5 per year to cover expenses. There is currently only one plot left unrented.
- BM are hosting two events this year the second of which is on Sept 7<sup>th</sup> – all committee members invited.

### 5. TPM Update

- The site is more or less full with requests coming in about once a week. It's looking good largely due to the Payback team but we still need more help with managing the site. **Action:** TPM group to plan working parties
- Pete had repaired troughs but needs someone to finish the blockwork and plumbing. Money would be released to pay for this. The committee agreed that Pete should be congratulated for keeping going.
- Overseeing of plots has been very successful. Currently, 3 whole plots had been recovered; 2 half pots were likely to come back and 2 were problematical. All abandoned plots will be declared before rent day and not re-let to the original plot holders.
- The regular end of season event will be moved to the autumn possibly late October to involve a bonfire and food. **Action:** Elizabeth and TPM group to plan event

### 6. Bee project

- There was some discussion surrounding the keeping of honey bees on TPM. It was unclear as to whether there has been a formal case made to keep bees on the old orchard plot.
- A member on a neighbouring plot has contacted the Secretary to say that they have a severe allergic reaction so this pretty much rules out the orchard as a location.
- It is worth noting the following:
  - Cripsey Meadow allotments bans the keeping of bees on their plots
  - Botley Meadow has had a successful hive on site for a number of years with no complaints or problems
  - Our rules state beekeeping is allowed at the discretion of the committee:
  - (54) Livestock may not be kept on allotments. Bees may be kept by a member only with the approval of the committee, which will grant permission only on such terms as may be necessary to ensure the avoidance of nuisance to other members, and in particular taking account of their views
- **Action:** TPM group to discuss the issue and bring back to the next committee meeting

### Next meeting

- **Action:** Nick to do Doodle polls for next meeting and for the rota for the rent collection Sundays in September