

## Minutes 17 Sept 2019, Osney, St Thomas & New Botley Allotments Association committee

**Attending:** Jude, Sheila, Nick, Cathy, Paul, Phil, Elizabeth, Verity

**Apologies:** Janet, Sue, Anne, Pól

**1. Minutes of 11 July** declared accurate with one amendment – Cathy was present at the last committee meeting.

Matters arising:

- **New committee members** – **Action:** both BM and TPM committee members to head hunt possible new members.
- **AGM 2020** – new date is now 30 April: 7 - 9.30 in the main hall. The room has been booked.

**2. Financial report:**

- **Action:** Sheila volunteered to circulate a report after the meeting.
- She reported that we have definitely got Thames Water and Oxford City Council (allotment) grants.
- Susanna and Colin both reported they have sent in their funding applications but it is as yet unclear if the monies have been received. **Action:** Sheila to check bank account to see if monies received. **Action:** If so, Jude to chase Colin and Susanna again

**3. BM update**

- Nick reported that the six monthly mains water bill for BM was **ONLY £25!** Cheers all round.
- Oxford City Council Allotments has given £410 for improvements to the BM communal polytunnel, keeping it cooler in high summer so it is more accessible.
- The site is in the process of converting the existing 'U' network into a proper ring main to supply all the water troughs.
- Aggregate for the paths has been ordered and delivered – using money from the last OCC grants application

**4. 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.
- The toilet has been closed because the septic tank is full and the soak away is insufficient. Possible plans for a compostable toilet at some point in the future were discussed.
- Water project: Pete will order barrels but needs help with delivery. **Action:** Nick, Pól & Phil to help.
- Jude wants another trough for the middle lane – agreed. **Action:** Jude to order using existing funds
- Security fencing for TPM northern perimeter. Agreed that Jude should proceed and order in installments of approx. £1500 worth. **Action:** Jude to order fencing panels
- Tree management – a big problem all round. The TPM group have decided to reduce the height of the hedge abutting Botley Road, as they currently cast shade on the neighbouring plots making cultivation there unacceptably difficult. Jude is getting a quote for 2 trees (willows) along the river to be reduced as they are too big for self-help. **Action:** Jude to obtain quote. TPM management group is organising work to reduce those currently within our capacity.
- JG – following an email from the widow of JG in which she expressed anger at seeing his name crossed off the rent day lists, the committee agreed to put guidance in place for such matters. **Action:** Nick to write a letter to JK expressing our sadness and apologizing for the upset caused.

**5. Rent collection**

- We have received 90% of TPM and 85% of BM rents.
- BM has a few vacant plots; TPM has a waiting list.
- TPM is renting almost all half plots; some quarter plots

**6. Working parties**

- The drive to sign up plot holders for work parties on rent day 2 and 3 was very successful.
- There are 10 dates and 8 have subscribers.
- The biggest current task is fencing.

## 7. Women's community service plot (4B and 5B)

- No action

## 8. Seeds

- Cathy has negotiated a deal with Kings Seeds now that Wallis Seeds has ceased trading.
- There is a catalogue in the shop. **Action:** Nick to see if a link to this and to other seed companies can be put up on the website
- Plot-holders order themselves and put in a code (being sent out this week) giving a discount.

## Next meeting

- **Action:** Nick and Jude to look for possible dates and venues