

## Minutes 30 April 2020 Osney, St Thomas & New Botley Allotments Association Committee

### Attending:

Nick Jackson (Secretary, Acting Chair)      Cathy Stewart (Treasurer)      Pól Ó Ceallaigh (BM)  
Jude Carroll (TPM)      Paul Robinson (TPM)      Phil Sampson (BM)  
Verity Wilson (TPM)      Sue Spencer-Longhurst (TPM)

Jude, Nick, Cathy, Paul, Phil, Verity, Sue, Pól

### Apologies:

Sheila Parry (TPM)      Anne James (TPM, Committee Chair)

### 1. Matters arising:

- **Minutes of 11 March 2020** declared accurate. **Action:** Nick to post redacted version on the website
- Jude: rolling plan for trees on TPM – work ongoing. One person near proposed tree work has objected. **Action:** Jude and Paul to investigate
- TPM and BM to think about committee members – ongoing.
- Cathy – need to get rid of remaining stocks of Glyphosate. To be donated to Botley Meadow. **Action:** Cathy & Nick to arrange

### 2. Financial report (Nick):

- No significant outgoings. A couple of members still haven't been reimbursed
- **Action:** Nick & Phil to discuss offline as to how to handle changeover of Treasurer role
- John Parker is lined up to do the septic tank and shed work on TPM once social distancing decreases. And the cost will be covered by the OCC grant, which we know we have got
- Latest communication from Castle Water – water bill increasing. **Action:** Phil to investigate and challenge. For info – other Associations have swapped to alternative water providers

### 3. Report from BM:

- Nick had email from Susanna relating complaint from neighbours about bonfires. **Action:** Nick & Phil to investigate
- Nick has emailed BM members to remind them that dogs must be kept on leads while on site. May also be a problem relating to open gate policy

### 4. Report from TPM:

- Following NSALG advice on COVID-19 security. Instance of unruly children who have since been banned from site
- Burglary from the shop – bicycle was stolen. Knew the site well
- Nick had phone call from [REDACTED] (Plot [REDACTED]) enquiring about [REDACTED] plot - already been in discussion with Cathy.
- Not much more to be done to water project until social distancing measures improve
- Website has been complemented
- Many thanks to Cathy for all her effort into growing seedlings for sale under difficult lockdown conditions

### 5. Catchment area for OSTNB:

- Nick has received several requests for plots from people living in town (*i.e.* west of the railway tracks and therefore low priority according to our current rules) but we ARE (TPM) their nearest allotment site by far.
- Committee still in favour of maintaining a geographic catchment area but need to discuss with neighbouring Associations how to handle centre-of-town requests.
- There will be mid-points (e.g. between us and Cripsey) which will be 'dividing lines' – **Action:** Nick to raise this at the next ODFAA committee meeting
- TPM is fully let, but there are some uncultivated plots. If we have capacity it would be reasonable to offer plots to West Oxford people
- The St Thomas part of our Association name is actually east of the railway tracks
- **Action:** Pól to see if we can obtain a map that gives post code breakdown of streets beyond 'OX2' level

## 6. Review of size of sheds/greenhouses:

- Need to discuss a sensible approach to members asking to build either large sheds or greenhouses, and what can those on half or quarter plots expect to be able to put up?
- Members are required to ask permission before they put up structures, but this rarely happens
- What constitutes large and what % of the plot area could be covered by structures?
- Would we need a grandparent clause on any new set of rules, given the rash of new build that 2019/20 has seen?
- Issues of shading and legacy issues when plots change hands. Also H&S issues from poorly built or secured structures
- Will look at this again when the new/revised OCC rules are adopted – in terms of guidance on sheds, greenhouses and other structures
- **Action:** Nick to put something on website to advise members who are thinking of putting up sheds
- **Action:** Jude to discuss with Gus regarding advice provided to new starters thinking of putting up sheds
- **Action:** Phil will search on other Association websites to see what sort of advice is provided

## 7. AOB

### Oxford Hub Volunteers

- Susanna P has forwarded information of Oxford Hub volunteers to help members who are shielding
- Committee is happy for this to happen – security shouldn't be a problem
- **Action:** Nick to put it up on the website and encourage any relevant members to proceed

### Next Meeting

- Zoom meetings seem to be working well for the moment
- Date and place of next meeting – Late July unless needed sooner
- By Zoom if still distancing, or Shop otherwise

Signed:



Dr Nick Jackson  
OSTNB Allotment Association Secretary and acting Chair

Date: 2 April 2020