

Minutes 10 Dec 2019, Osney, St Thomas & New Botley Allotments Association committee

Attending: Jude, Nick, Cathy, Paul, Phil, Elizabeth, Sue, Verity, Anne

Apologies: Shelia, Pól

1. Matters arising:

- **Minutes of 17 September** declared accurate. **Action:** Nick to post redacted version on the website

2. Financial report:

- Sheila reported via an email update that there was c. £14,000 in the bank

3. BM update

- Oxford City Council already provided £410 for improvements to the BM communal polytunnel, keeping it cooler in high summer so it is more accessible. No progress on this to date but likely to happen over winter/spring before growing season begins.
- Still work to do on path improvement (aggregate already purchased and delivered) and water supply line extension – again materials largely already purchased
- BM is currently 95% let with only about 2½ plots free.

4. TPM Update

- The TPM site is currently flooded out.
- TPM has received some water butts from the Botanical Gardens – Peter F doesn't think they will be needed for the TPM Water Project so other suggested uses welcome.
- Bonfire site: this approach only partially successful. It was considered that the way forward is communal composting.
- The idea of using a shredder was put forward but so far the only ones available to rent (without H&S training) are deemed not powerful enough.
- **Action:** TPM group to discuss producing lockable composting bins once the fencing project has been completed, and may pitch for a grant to OCC in 2020.
- Next round of OCC allotment grants – deadline in February for bids. BM and TPM alternate each round and it is TPM's turn. Bids should come under composting, security, accessibility or water harvesting.
- Abandoned plots had been well managed by Sue, Jude and Janet
- The Orchard apple trees have been harvested and juiced and sold in the shop @ £2 per bottle. It had now sold out. A very successful project.
- The apple trees need pruning. Volunteers should be trained up to manage this. Orchard to expand into plot 50.
- Riverside trees are to be managed by those on whose plots they grow.
- The Association Shop kitchen refurbishment was delayed by the theft of the sink – Jude, Gus and Phil have still managed to change the shop for the better. They await a sink.
- Installing security fencing on the north end of TPM site is proceeding well. £2018 spent on it so far and 18 sections put up by the Paybacks and working parties. Jude will order the rest after Christmas.
- Landfill material collected from abandoned plots still needs to be disposed of.
- The TPM septic tank needs a new cover.
- Need to advertise for more work parties. They are very successful, engendering a real sense of community.

5. AOB

- Trees need to be managed on TPM
- AGM will be planned at the next meeting

Signed:



Dr Nick Jackson

OSTNB Allotment Association Secretary and acting Chair

Date: 12 Dec 2019