

Minutes 11 Mar 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)	Anne James (TPM, Committee Chair)	

Apologies:

Sheila Parry (TPM)	Sue Spencer-Longhurst (TPM)
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1. Matters arising:

- **Minutes of 10 December 2019** declared accurate. Action: Nick to post redacted version on the website

2. Financial report (Nick)

- NJ had used summary from Sheila to finalise info ready for AGM. Finances are in a very good condition
- Shop income had decreased – may be previous misallocation of rents in previous years might account for this
- TPM allotment grant from OCC has been successful – c. £460 so repairs to proceed
- Tree work – we do need to get work done so agreed to proceed – cost of £1,400. Action: Jude to put together a rolling plan of which trees (and hedges) will need work over the next five years
- Reserves and assets – we don't think OSTNB have assets anywhere near those that Cripsey Meadow do – therefore our ongoing costs are significantly lower. Nevertheless sinking fund useful if/when challenged at AGM over large reserves

3. Report from BM:

- Nothing much to report. No payback team visits due to flooding. Flooding site rent rebate is factored in for our two sites, along with three other allotment sites
- Oxford Flood Alleviation Strategy – plans on hold until the railway bridge issues can be addressed

4. Report from TPM:

- Bid for OCC funding
- Communal compost bins by burning site
- Large stock of pallets to offer for bin building built by Payback Teams – Nick happy to post on website to advertise this if somebody would put some words together
- New Fire Marshall
- Fence complete – thanks to Cathy for running all the extra payback days. Hedge to be planted in front to soften the appearance
- Water Project – still proceeding
- Full occupancy at the moment – still getting requests and Gus is doing sterling work showing potentials around
- Still taking loads of rubbish to the tip – have found a place to dispose of glass. Think we have managed to dispose of almost all the residual rubbish on site

5. Planning for the AGM:

- Now redundant as AGM was postponed due to Lock Down and Social Distancing rules
- Current Committee stays in place until an AGM can take place. Nick is now happy to continue as Secretary to oversee finalisation of leases (and now has Co-Chair of ODFAA)
- Action: All on TPM to see if potential committee members could be found between now and then – Tim K and Kay T mentioned as potentials. Action: Nick, Pól and Phil to see if BM potential committee members could be found

6. Association Committee recommendation regarding a Glyphosate ban:

- The Committee debated this and were not of one mind on this matter
- Agreed that it should be debated at the (now-postponed) AGM. Nick will need somebody else to oversee that session as he plans to speak against the motion – Anne is happy to do this in the event that Susanna P is not available

- **Action:** Cathy to organise disposal of any remaining glyphosate stock from the shop
- TPM observations confirm inappropriate use – some would like to see a ban on site
- Suggestion to reserve discussion until the latter half of the meeting
- We have no rule regarding changing rules – so a simple majority is sufficient

7. Association Leases 2021-2042:

- We have been operating under a licence rather than a lease up until now. Going forward we need to decide between Lease or License
- This affects Trustee liability - to be an agenda item for AGM
- Also need to decide between Incorporated or Unincorporated status (as current)
- Committee to recommend a Lease (with a SLN covering tree management etc.) with OSTNB as an incorporated Cooperative
- ODFAA will run some workshops together with OCC to make sure all Associations are able to complete the necessary paperwork for Incorporation
- Will need to consider changes in OCC Allotment Rules and consequences for OSTNB rules from 2021
- Going forwards, allotments are going to be managed under Community Services and no longer under Parks – this may make further resources/funding available to Associations

8. AOB

- Date and place of next meeting – need one soon after the AGM, i.e. early May
- Next meeting to take place in the shop (now to be held **by Zoom on April 30, 7pm**)

Signed:



Dr Nick Jackson
OSTNB Allotment Association Secretary and acting Chair

Date: 12 Mar 2020