

Osney, St Thomas & New Botley Allotments Association Committee
Minutes 22 February 2021 (Held using Zoom)

TPM update:

- 8 people currently on waiting list – newbies often want a riverside plot!
- New Bonfire arrangements are working well. Monthly burn doing the job very nicely indeed.
- Starting to cut the remaining willows along the river that were left by the ODS team. Work can be done by a team of 3, socially-distanced.
- Some residual damage post-floods. Paint, petrol spillages. Need to issue reminder to members about storing stuff out of flooding risk. This to include stencilling plot #s on things likely to float away. **Action:** All to think of what should go out in an email to members and send to Nick.
- **Action:** Nick to send out email saying no more potato orders.

Finance update (Cathy):

- Cathy reported it had been a quiet period – a few utility bills are large as previous bills had been going to old addresses.
- Security sub-group had thought of asking Cllr Pressel for funding. Pól suggested approaching both councillors as elections coming up in May so they should be more willing to hand out funding.
Action: Juliette to work on bid – Jude to assist as necessary

AGM planning (Nick):

- Nick has hosted a number of AGMs for other allotment associations using the ODFAA Zoom account
- We need to think of having an AGM – probably back end of April or early May
- Committee agreed to recommend incorporated status as a Coop to members at the AGM
- To become a Coop our application to the FCA needs to be sponsored by an appropriate reputable body. Options for sponsorship:
 - NAS membership - £3 per member (potentially on annual basis)
 - Via Coop Bank community arrangements - £150 flat fee
 - ODFAA becomes sponsoring body – small charge to reimburse ODFAA costs to register (spread across all 34 associations)
- **Action:** Nick to look for dates for AGM, sending out a Doodle poll to judge committee availability – **Thursday 13th May suggested**
- ODFAA are working with OCC to hammer out the revised lease – including rules governing how Associations and OCC interact.
- Additionally, as a Coop we would have to have a set of FCA-compliant rules governing how we as an Association interact with our members. ODFAA is working with OCC to finalise a standardised version of these that are acceptable to OCC (based, we hope, on the old OCC Allotment Rules). These rules would replace our current rules (but are broadly the same). Any additional individual rules we wish to keep can be added to the generic rules so long as they do not conflict with them.
Action: Nick to work on these rules over the summer with assistance from the rest of the committee
- We may need to have an EGM later in the year to formally accept the new rules, the lease and the transfer to becoming a Coop – but at the AGM we should put it ‘conceptually’ to the members to agree.

- Juliette suggesting using [Padlet](#) to provide a replacement for the interactive sessions that we have had before the start of previous AGMs (and were well-received). **Action:** Juliette and Nick to discuss. **Action:** Simon suggested the use of Zoom break-out rooms and will look into the possibility of hosting the AGM using his corporate account which has the breakout room function

AOB (Nick):

- Pól raised the issue of the SumUp card reader using Cathy's email address. **Action:** Nick to look into alternative shop email address
- **Action:** Jude asked Nick to remind EA staff inspecting Botley Meadow that work was promised to happen on TPM as well.
- Wildflower meadow plans on TPM – waiting on flood works. [Oxford Flood Alleviation project](#) now delayed – new planning application going in late 2021.
- Paul asked Nick to remind members now is a good time to prune trees. We may consider setting a maximum tree height to the new rules
- General observation from Jude that TPM is going really well with a lot of positivity going around.