

Osney, St Thomas & New Botley Allotments Association Committee Minutes 19 July 2021 (Held using Zoom)

Attending:

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| Nick Jackson (Secretary, Acting Chair, BM) | Jude Carroll (TPM) | Pól Ó Ceallaigh (BM) |
| Anne James (TPM, Committee Chair) | Paul Robinson (TPM) | Juliette Sargeant (TPM) |
| Simon Burgess (TPM) | Lizz Wilden (TPM) | |

Apologies:

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|--------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Cathy Stewart (Treasurer, TPM) | Verity Wilson (TPM) | Sue Spencer-Longhurst (TPM) |
| Beth Hogben (BM) | | |

Previous actions:

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| • All to think of what should go out in a post-floods email to members and send to Nick | All | Completed |
| • Send out post flood email and email saying no more potato orders | Nick | Completed |
| • Security sub-group bid to councilors - Juliette to work on bid – Jude to assist as necessary | Juliette/Jude | Ongoing |
| • Look for dates for AGM, sending out a Doodle poll to judge committee availability | Nick | Completed |
| • Work on revising rules over the summer with assistance from the rest of the committee | Nick | Ongoing |
| • Using Padlet to provide a replacement for the interactive sessions that we have had before the start of previous AGMs | Juliette/Nick | Overtaken |
| • Using Zoom break-out rooms and will look into the possibility of hosting the AGM using his corporate account | Simon | Completed |
| • Look into alternative shop email address | Nick | Completed |
| • Remind EA staff inspecting Botley Meadow that work was promised to happen on TPM as well | Nick | Completed |

Matters arising:

- **Minutes of 23 March** declared accurate. **Action:** Nick to post redacted versions of minutes on website

Brief feedback from AGM:

- Zoom allowed more interaction / discussion. Clearly not inclusive (but then neither is face-to-face).
- Expectation that water project on TPM will result in c. £2,500 savings probably over-optimistic. Project continues slowly with many revisions and experiments. Probably over 2 or 3 more years.
- 100% backing for us to proceed with incorporated Co-op status.
- Glyphosate ban passed 66% yes, 33% no (from non-representative sample). 14 people spoke, several many times. Issue remains about letting people know who have no email contact and sometimes, no contact details at all.
- No new committee members. We need to put more into recruitment.

TPM update:

- Vacancies and waiting list: 5 ½ plots and 1 ⅓ plot vacant. 15 on waiting list. Jude currently showing plots as Gus shielding
- Abandoned plots: 17 letters sent out, 8 contested, 3 offered mitigation (accepted), 2 suggested reducing from full to half (accepted), 5 under review, 9 did not respond.
- Insufficient cultivation: 8 letters sent, 2 replies agreeing to cultivate. Will look again in late August to OK for rental.
- Several letters sent about specific issues (herbicide use, insufficient use of half of full plot, 1 case of clear subletting (ongoing))
- **Action:** Simon to talk to Bo and Sean on plot 110 about getting more involved in TPM issues
- Bonfires monthly working well and several offers to run them. More offers needed - contact Jude.

- Mowers are a big problem. 3 small ones, all in poor condition despite recent servicing. We will no longer loan to plot holders - small mowers used for mowing paths and roads but will not be replaced when they stop completely. New mower (bought in April) has proved unfit for purpose and is back in the shop for repairs. It will only be used by trained folk for mowing the orchards or occasional communal meadows.
- Reports of BM members not being able to gain access to shop on Sundays as gates are locked.
Action: Ensure gates are open on Sunday morning for shop access (Jude to talk to Cathy).
- Rubbish and clearing plots an issue - one longstanding member has hoarded for years. Skip needed to clear it (note: committee asked that it be designated a paid work task).
- Positives: no geese (but lots of rats), willow pollarding over the winter very beneficial, Brambles have regrown along the back security fence and enhanced its effectiveness. Most plots well-tended and some are amazing.
- **Action:** Anne to organise a shared TPM picnic and some communal food and drink to be held in the top fields by the west gate on one of the Sundays used for rent. Stalls on various issues to be set up - organic group (Tobias), maintenance tasks on TPM (Jude), maybe one on birds, bees and bugs and bans. Jude suggested notices now, get the dates into people's diaries, signs on the gates, email.

BM update:

- 1 case of using plot for storage.
- 1 incident of broken windows, probable air gun use - under discussion with plot holder.
- **Action:** BH weekend for BM BBQ – Nick to send out invitation email
- 1 x ½ plot vacancy, 1 x full plot surrendered soon. 1 plot not yet paid but being worked. Some turnover expected at rent renewal.

Allotment Rules:

- Need to consider which of our specific rules need to be appended to the forthcoming updated OCC allotment rules.
- **Action:** Anne, Juliette and Paul volunteered to review and classify current rules as enforceable and unenforceable, perhaps using red, amber, green etc.
- **Action:** Agreed to review rules on 50% cultivation after next rental period (Nick & Jude).

Finance update:

- Jude to organise paid work tasks as per list and agreed payments of c. £2,500 for them. Add clearing Amy's 2 plots to paid work list so an additional cost - get agreement before confirmed that Dene will do it.

Proposal for Honorary Membership:

- Agreed to start honorary membership status, process to be set up - no criteria but each nomination brought to committee attention.
- **Action:** Nick to publicise the idea and invite nominations.

AOB:

- No items raised

Next meeting:

- Nick to Doodle poll for next meeting – possible late September