

## Osney, St Thomas & New Botley Allotments Association Committee Minutes 23 March 2021 (Held using Zoom)

### Attending:

Nick Jackson (Secretary, Acting Chair, BM)	Cathy Stewart (Treasurer, TPM)	Pól Ó Ceallaigh (BM)
Beth Hogben (BM)	Paul Robinson (TPM)	Sue Spencer-Longhurst (TPM)
Verity Wilson (TPM)	Juliette Sargeant (TPM)	Jude Carroll (TPM)
Anne James (TPM, Committee Chair)		

### Apologies:

Lizz Wilden (TPM)	Simon Burgess (TPM)
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### Previous actions:

• 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 – Thursday 13th May suggested	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 (Nick):

- **Minutes of 22 February 2021** declared accurate. **Action:** Nick to post redacted versions of minutes on the website

### BM update (Pól)

- Visit from Dalcour Maclaren – estate agents managing the land issues surrounding the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme. Looking at access to stone wall on perimeter
- Notice board has fallen apart – needs repair
- Need to upgrade polytunnel – marking out individual units to let and hardcore for paths. £250 agreed spend. **Action:** Nick to organise

### TPM update (Jude):

- 2 new members; several removed from waiting list. 4 unattractive plots available to rent
- Demographics are changing – most people taking up plots are young, often with children
- Plans for plot inspection and follow up around Easter and then repeat in June
- Water Project proceeding well – Jude put on record the committee's thanks to Mark for all his hard work – intends to connect first water tanks to network after Easter
- Most of the Willow trees along the river have been pruned – six still waiting for action
- New shop doors and a new cover for the septic tank
- Lots of non-members on site helping members – Jude & Cathy trying to keep on top of this
- One person has complained about the children and Covid-related issues – new guidance developed

- Bonfires are working fine under the new arrangements

#### Finance update (Cathy):

- Castle Water and Electricity company have caught up with billing us after a couple of years not doing so – explains the relatively high charges. Incentive to complete the water project
- Few comments on shop pricing – decided we raise prices only if the cost to us increases. Agreed we should round up to the nearest 50p. Already provides good value – e.g. Moorland Gold compost bought in bulk means we could sell it considerably cheaper than available online ...
- Discussed and agreed that the association does need a long-term ‘sinking fund’ to cover maintenance/replacement of assets that OCC will not pay for. Cathy and Nick are discussing this – e.g. savings from water project could be diverted to the sinking fund

#### Lease discussions with OCC (Nick):

- Not much further to report. ODFAA are meeting with OCC in a couple of weeks
- Agreed that the position paper on Becoming a Coop was appropriate to send out for discussion and voting on at the AGM. **Action:** Nick to send out with AGM papers
- Rules enforcement – we have a lot of rules that we don’t currently enforce. Need to consider this when we revise our rules later this year. Agreed that we will RAG (red/amber/green) the existing rules to see which we currently enforce, and which we need to add on to the end of the revised OCC Allotment Rules to produce a new set of rules. **Action:** Nick to add a discussion of the rules for the next Committee meeting
- H&S Concerns – need to discuss our potential liabilities around equipment/kit (e.g. trampolines) on communal areas. **Action:** TPM to discuss and bring back to the next meeting

#### Planning for the AGM (Nick):

- Nick Doodle polled to look for dates for AGM – **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May** was the best date. Agreed.
- Notice and paperwork will all be electronic
- Suggested that we send out the rules with the paperwork. **Action:** Nick to send out paperwork
- Gus submitted a motion last year on a ban on Glyphosate use. **Action:** Jude to remind him
- Everyone is happy to stand for the committee again – we will ask if anyone else wants to join
- Hope that we will be able to hold a physical AGM rather than Zoom by 2022
- Nick has hosted 4 or 5 Allotment Association AGMs recently over Zoom and they’ve worked well

#### AOB (Nick):

- **Formal complaint** from plot holder over neighbour strimming brambles in a wildlife area on their plot. Two Rule infringements – trespass (52) and rude behaviour (51) towards them. **Action:** Nick will write to both – thanking complainant for bringing it to our attention, and to the offender to remonstrate and point out rule breaches
- **Space for Local School Nursery Group** to meet and grow:
  - TPM plot next to car park that is difficult to rent (unpopular)
  - Sarah M who has her own plot runs a nursery & forest school for kids to learn to grow things
  - Suggestion to divide top third and offer it to them
  - Also, pond at west oxford community school (with cover) is being disposed of – could use it for this project

→ In principle the Committee would like to support this but a number of issues (e.g. insurance etc.) need bottoming out first. **Action:** Juliette and Jude to set up a small group to consider project and continue discussions with Sarah and bring back to the next committee meeting

**Next meeting:**

- Nick to Doodle poll for next meeting – possible pre-AGM