

Osney, St Thomas & New Botley Allotments Association Committee Minutes 29 November 2022 (Held using Zoom)

Attending:

Anne James (TPM, Committee Chair)
Gigi Horsfield (BM)
Juliette Sargeant (TPM)

Nick Jackson (Secretary, BM)
Kate Gleeson (TPM)
Verity Wilson (TPM)

Pól Ó Ceallaigh (BM)
Mark Gower (TPM)

Apologies:

Beth Hogben (BM)
Phil Sampson (BM) – standing down

Cathy Stewart (Treasurer, TPM)

Paul Robinson (TPM) – standing down

Committee membership:

- Both Paul and Phil have stepped down for personal reasons
- **Action:** Nick to write to each thanking them for all the tremendous work that they have put in as committee members
- This leaves us without a Treasurer. Nick and Anne had a quick discussion around this and he can field things temporarily until Cathy returns from South Africa
- Gigi has volunteered to step up as Treasurer – from when Cathy returns. She has previous experience as Treasurer of her Union branch. The meeting thanked her and agreed that Gigi Horsfield is now the Association Treasurer
- Processes have greatly simplified since we went over to using the SumUp card readers and stopped taking cash (SumUp device and App allows us to issue payable invoices)
- **Action:** Nick to contact Metro Bank to add Gigi and himself as electronic internet banking authorisers

BM update:

- Effectively full – just 2 x ½ plots available and there are issues with one. **Action:** Verity to look at TPM waiting list and see if any could be persuaded to take a plot on BM (some may have asked specifically for TPM)
- No major issues to report – everyone behaving sensibly
- Issues with people leaving gate open while they are down – but leaving padlock open with the combination visible. We do have 3 or 3 members who live right by the gate so tend to keep an eye on security

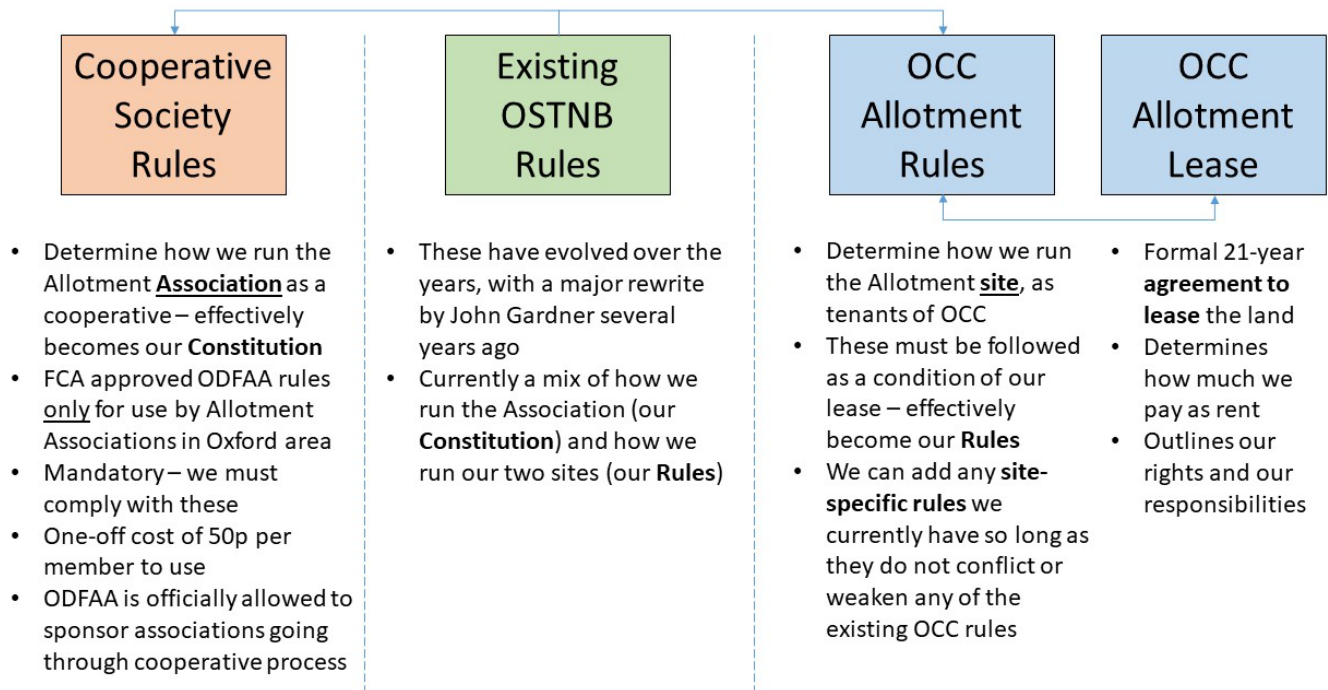
TPM update:

- Allotment Shop will remain closed for December. New team taking over the shop – thanks to Cathy for sorting this out.
- Kate is taking over handing plot fees for new members.
- Uncultivated plots – 8 or 9 new tenants dating from September. Verity's suggestion of covering with weed fabric has been successful – new members taking on a covered abandoned plot have been able to 'queue-jump' the waiting list
- Still have 12 x ½ plots that are overgrown and need clearing (especially the old sheds). Still got 6 ½ plots with members not cultivating at all so will need to address this at some point.
- Some interest in creating a TPM tool bank for new members to use – similar to the communal tool shed on Botley Meadow. Unwanted tools can be donated to Orinoco Project
- TPM are investigating the possibilities for getting a toilet. Pól mentioned that some associations rent Portaloos to comply with the requirements for the Payback individuals to work on site. Court Place Farm Allotments are one association that does this.

- **Action:** Nick/Pól to see if Phil has a working number for the Payback Team coordinator to pass on to Verity
- Asbestos problem – this has been removed. Also checked other plots to see if there was any more. The monster shed on Helen’s plot is still there – **Action:** Anne and Kate to work on getting this removed

Plans for becoming a Cooperative Society:

- Nick and Anne discussed briefly before the meeting
- Nick presented a summary of the difference between the Coop Rules, the Oxford City Council Rules (+ Lease) and our own Allotment Rules



- Proposing to form a small sub-group to discuss these and the process of moving to Coop status: **Action:** Mark happy to look at the site rules; **Action:** Nick to ask Juliette to help look at the Coop rules and process; **Action:** Nick and Anne to be part of the sub-group. Kate and Verity to look at what the sub-group produces
- Adopting ODFAA coop-approved rules will cost us 50p per member as a one-off cost – probably around £125. If we had had to rely on using the NAS coop rules it would have been £3 membership per member – so a lot more
- Aim to have everything prepared so we can wind up the current Association at the next AGM and formally transfer the assets across to the OSTNB Coop Ltd.

AOB:

- Finances – currently using the free version of SumUp. Cathy was wondering if we should move to Pro version with lower online transaction fees and unlimited invoices. **Action:** Kate to discuss with Cathy and bring to a future meeting

Next meeting:

- **Action:** Nick to Doodle poll for next meeting – early February and look for WOCA availability for AGM in late April/early May

Nick Jackson

Nick Jackson (Association Secretary)