

COTTONMILL AND NUNNERY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting on Wednesday 13th January 2020 The White Lion, Sopwell Lane, St Albans

PRESENT:

Keith Reynolds (Chairman)
Terry Beckett (Cottonmill Plot Officer; Treasurer)
Janet Wyatt (Secretary)
Michelle Mackenzie (Facebook Administrator)
Jane Ridge (Nunnery 2 Plot Officer)
Brian Gilson (Nunnery 1 Plot Officer)
Erica Weindorf (Project Officer)
Paul Littlewood (Assistant Plot Officer, Cottonmill)
Clare Norman (Co-opted Sopwell Mill Plot Officer)
Jim Standen (Co-opted Sopwell Mill Plot Officer)

APOLOGIES:

Jane Fookes (Newsletter Editor)

The Chairman welcomed CN and JM to the meeting, who will carry out plot Officer duties at Sopwell Mill as a job share.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting on 15th October 2019 were agreed as an accurate record. These will now be placed on the CNAA website.

2. ACTION UPDATE and MATTERS ARISING

JR will contact Juliet Foxwell to arrange to take over monitoring incoming emails received through the website. **Action JR.**

3. REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported an income of £3571 at 13th January 2020, £1060 of which comes from membership fees. £1664 has been received for compost orders and £733 for seed orders. Expenditure of £2990 to date has been incurred, including payment to Aylett's for the compost and Kings for seeds. With the balance brought forward from 2018 the account shows a balance of £2652. The Treasurer will be paying the fee required by the National Allotment Society before the end of CNAA's financial year and he will base this on membership of 120. Treasurer reported he has bought a supply of stamps. Delivery of compost in 2019 was problematic due to poor weather and the Treasurer proposes that delivery for 2020 should be in September.

Membership

At the time of the meeting the membership was 118 including one life member. Cottonmill has 72 members, Nunnery 1 has 13, Nunnery 2 has 22 and Sopwell has 11 members.

Site reports

Cottonmill

There are seven vacancies and fifteen on the waiting list.

The Council is doing some renovation on some vacant plots that are very overgrown and these will then be released to possible new plot holders.

Nunnery 1

There are no vacancies and nine on the waiting list.

Nunnery 2

There are no vacancies and eight on the waiting list.

Sopwell

There are four vacancies and six on the waiting list.

Plot 1 is not deemed to be useable as a plot and will be turned over to a communal orchard.

A small team of plot holders are investigating the feasibility of having an Apiary on the Sopwell site. They are being assisted by a plot holder who is an Apiarist and have been given the go ahead by the Council. However, as not all the bee keepers will be allotment holders, there are still issues to be worked through and CN/JS will update the Committee at its next meeting. **Action CN/JS**

4. COMMUNICATIONS.

- JF has confirmed that there will be a Newsletter at the end of January . She has been helped by Lisa McGinty who has shown an interest in standing for the position at the AGM. Ben, whose family have a plot on Cottonmill, has been contributing to this issue from a young person's perspective.
- Facebook has 192 followers and MM said that one item had been about a cat trapped in a greenhouse and she asked that we are vigilant to make sure our sheds and greenhouses do not trap an animal.

5. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

JW agreed to start an email chain with Committee members to work out some amended wording to be presented at the AGM. **Action JW.**

6. OPEN DAY 2020

BG asked if there were plans to open allotments to the public in 2020. Previously this has been as part of the Sustainable St Albans initiative. As this gives a good platform for promotion MM agreed to find out if CNAA could be included this year (23 May - 7 June). **Action MM.**

7. AGM

The following positions will be vacant and nominations invited for the AGM on 19th April.

Treasurer - TB willing to stand again.
Cottonmill Plot Officer
Newsletter Editor
Sopwell Mill Plot Officer

BG has suggested he approaches a plot holder on Nunnery who has recorded the first year of allotment work in photographs and he may be willing to give a short talk. It was agreed this would be a nice addition to the AGM. **Action BG**

8. VER PROJECT UPDATE

- CNAA's current understanding is that proposals for Reach 4, which is in phase 2 of the Project, have been shelved to enable full concentration on Reaches 1 and 2 (including the Lake). We are currently seeking updates on the timescale on both phases.
- We are looking for a commitment to less draconian ways to improve the River in Reach 4 which will be less disruptive to wildlife, allotmenting and represent a significantly lower cost.
- We are asking what short-term plans are being drawn up to improve the current state of the River in Reach 4.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

30th March at the White Lion.

Action Summary

Website	Arrange to take over monitoring emails received through website	JR	
Summer Show	Check Sub-aqua club's insurance position if non-members invited to CNAA event	JW	
Sopwell Mill	Update Committee on plans to develop apiary on site	CN/JS	
Constitution Amendment	Draft initial wording and circulate around Committee for input	JW	
Website hosting invoice	Ask Juliet Foxwell to arrange change of email to TB's	TB	
Open day	Explore the allotments being included under Sustainable St Albans	MM	
AGM	Contact Nunnery plot holder who has a photo album of his first year to ask if he would do a presentation	BG	