

# **COTTONMILL AND NUNNERY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**

## **Minutes of the Committee Meeting on Tuesday 23rd March 2021 Held through ZOOM**

### **PRESENT:**

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

### **1. APOLOGIES:**

Erica Weindorf (Project Officer)

**2.** The minutes of the meeting on 15th September 2020 were agreed as an accurate record. These will now be placed on the CNAA website.

### **3. ACTION UPDATE and MATTERS ARISING**

- Sopwell orchard proposal has been cleared with Phil Bruce-Green (PB-G).
- Wild-life camera images are now being placed on the CNAA website
- Joint Area Committee, TB is waiting for documents from previous CNAA Chair, Alison Shipperlee.

### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP**

The Treasurer's report is attached. Membership is currently 123. TB has done some calculations to see what impact a reduction on membership due to flooding on Cottonmill would have. His model indicates that CNAA needs to retain a membership of 75 to break even. The point was made that recent Cottonmill events might actually generate an interest in joining from plot holders who have expressed their thanks for the work CNAA has been doing. **Action KR** to send a message through Cottonmill WhatsApp group. Also, renewed efforts to recruit members of other sites need to be taken up. **Action: Plot Officers**

## 5. SITE REPORTS

### **Cottonmil.**

See Agenda item 'Recent Flood Events'.

### **Nunnery 1**

There are 22 on the waiting list and one vacancy.

### **Nunnery 2**

There are 31 on the waiting list and no vacancies. One plot is a potential for an NCO.

PB-G is resuming inspections on April so the plan to identify plots that are uncultivated has been dropped.

### **Sopwell**

- There are several poorly tended plots and PB-G will be asked to look at these. Currently there are approximately 15 on the waiting list.
- Orchard: Council permission has been given and a Community Day is planned for 10th April, to be held under Covid precautions, and donations of fruit trees to start an orchard will be brought along.
- The height restriction bar at the car park is missing a padlock and PB-G has been contacted to replace it.

## 6. COMMUNICATIONS.

- Facebook use is at about the same level as last year. Website has been updated with photographs from the cameras.

## 7. AGM 2021

It is proposed that this should be held on 9th May by ZOOM and KR will-Chair. Reports, Accounts and minutes of last AGM will be circulated ahead of time to members by email. TB will submit the accounts to the scrutineers in early April. **Action JW, TB, KR**

A reminder of the vacancies due to 3 year stand-down rule in Constitution-

Secretary-Janet Wyatt  
Project Officer - Erica Weindorf

## 8. SPRING NEWSLETTER

JS is willing to put this together if he is provided with the content. It will be issued after the AGM so that it can include a summary of the AGM. JW

will contact Ben Graham to ask if he will do an article and KR agrees to do his Chairman's Corner. **Action JW**

## **9. RECENT FLOOD EVENTS -Cottonmill Committee members only joined for this item.**

The river level is dropping and not streaming into the site as it was. KR had contacted the Council to say that whilst there has been some draining away of the water this was happening very slowly and asked what solution had been proposed by the Council's specialist contractor to strengthen the river bank. He had not received a reply by the date of this meeting. Algal growth is now becoming serious and the environment unpleasant. KR has done some investigation of options to pump the remaining water away with estimates between £600 and £1200. Both Councillor Emma Matanle and County Council Leader Sandy Walkington had offered some funding but this would not be until after elections in May. Alternative sources of support might be available. Affinity have a pump and offered to send an engineer to assess the problem. EW suggested crowd funding and **KR took an action** to follow this up with her. Any pumping is dependent on the Environment Agency agreeing that it can approve water being pumped back into the river and KR is waiting for a reply from his enquiry. **Action: KR** to ask Sandy Walkington and Daisy Cooper to contact EA. It was agreed that CNAA funding will not be used for flood relief.

### Recovery Plan

Skips shouldn't be requested from the Council until all plots have drained to discourage people from coming down when it is not safe. More than one will be needed and they should be staggered. Plot holders are to be asked to retain any debris intended for the skip on their own plot and not deposit it in communal areas. An area for lost and found of items not to go into the skip will be identified when it is safe to encourage people down to their plots. It is paramount that CNAA emphasises the danger of soft mud and contamination when plot holders do return and KR will put together a message to be circulated on the WhatsApp Cottonmill Group and a warning poster put onto the notice board. Plot holders will also be reminded that it is for them to clear their plots (skips to be provided), that inspections are resuming in April and NCOs would be issued where no progress had been made. This will be circulated to the Committee for comment before being issued. **Action KR/Committee.**

### **AOB**

- A Cottonmill plot holder contacted CNAA with a suggestion to take over a friend's plot on Nunnery as it is to be vacated and cultivate this whilst keeping his own plot. This raised concerns that this was queue jumping and that the practice of Co-worker status has a similar effect. The Committee cannot support queue jumping and JW/KR will draft an email to be circulated to the Committee and when agreed it will be sent by KR, asking the Council to share its policy on plot allocation. **Action JW/KR**

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

TBA

## Action Summary

Website	Arrange to take over monitoring emails received through website	JR	On-going
Website hosting invoice	Ask Juliet Foxwell to arrange change of email to TB's	TB	on-going
Joint Area Committee	Contact previous organiser to see if it could be reinstated	TB	On-going
AGM 2021	Prepare reports, minutes of 2020 and accounts for circulation by email by end April	KR, TB, JW	
CNAA Membership	Invite membership through Cottonmill WhatsApp.	KR	
CNAA Membership Newsletter	Promote membership amongst plot holders Contact contributors	Plot Officers JW	
Flood	EW to be contacted about crowd funding	KR	
Flood	Ask councillors to chase up EA	KR	
Flood	Communication of recovery plan to plot holders, to be drafted and circulated to Committee before issuing	KR	
Plot allocation	Draft email to PB-G to ask for Council's policy on plot allocation.	KR, Committee	