

COTTONMILL AND NUNNERY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting on Wednesday 12th August 2019 The White Lion, Sopwell Lane, St Albans

PRESENT:

Keith Reynolds (Chairman)
Terry Beckett (Cottonmill Plot Officer; Treasurer)
Janet Wyatt (Secretary)
Michelle Mackenzie (Facebook Administrator)
Paul Littlewood (Assistant Plot Officer, Cottonmill)
Jane Ridge (Nunnery 2 Plot Officer)
Brian Gilson (Nunnery 1 Plot Officer)
Erica Weindorf (Project Officer)

APOLOGIES:

Maria Jose Martin (Sopwell Plot Officer)
Jane Fookes (Newsletter Editor)

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

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

2. ACTION UPDATE and MATTERS ARISING

JR has still to contact Juliet Foxwell for additional website training and BG will prepare notices about considerate trimming for Nunnery.

3. REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported an income of £1680 at 12th August 2019, £1000 of which comes from membership fees and £650 has been received for compost orders. So far there has been little expenditure (£110) although payment for the compost will be due in September. With the balance brought forward from 2018 the account shows a balance of £3641.

Membership

At the time of the meeting the membership was 112 including one life member. Cottonmill has 68 members, Nunnery 1 has 13, Nunnery 2 has 22 and Sopwell has 9 members. The Committee discussed how to increase the overall numbers of members given that the figure for Cottonmill, for example, is that only 50% of plots hold membership. and Plot Officers will try to talk to holders of plots where membership was not held.

4. Site reports

Cottonmill

There are 6 vacancies, but no waiting list report was available at the time of the meeting.

There is currently a serious dispute between plot holders over the boundaries between their plots. This has now been handed over to the Council for resolution. **Action: KR** will contact Dan Flitton and Phil Bruce-Green to request that the Council makes a formal adjudication on this and communicates it to the plot holders involved. **Also KR** to request that boundaries are clearly marked by the Council to reduce such issues.

Recent email exchanges over this boundary dispute have revealed that there is an expectation from members that CNAA will resolve such matters. However, CNAA does not have authority over boundary issues as this properly sits with SADC as Landlord. It was agreed that CNAA should not take on any responsibility to resolve such matters. Currently CNAA's Constitution is not clear on where its authority, and therefore responsibility, sits and it is proposed that an amendment to the Constitution is put to the next AGM. **Action: JW** to note when preparing agenda.

Nunnery 1

There are 4 vacancies on Nunnery 1 and 8 on the waiting list.

Nunnery 2

There are no vacancies and 4 on the waiting list.

Sopwell

No report available.

5. Communications.

- Facebook page is being used - nothing unusual to report.
- A Newsletter is due at the end of September and the main feature will be a report of the Summer Show. JF is asking for some ideas for articles or new features. **Action: all**
- Website - JR is updating it and has included advertisements for two sheds and was advised these can now be removed. **Action JR.**

6. VER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

A meeting was held on 7th July between the Ver Project Sub-group and two Councillors (Emma Matanle and Mandy McNeil) to discuss the impact of recent changes in membership of the Council on the Ver Improvement Project. They confirmed the emphasis on the problems in Reaches 1, 2 and 3, in particular the Lake in the Park but that the Council had contacted the Environment Agency with concerns about the issue of funding the

Project. They asked for a briefing document to be prepared by the Sub-group for them setting out the background and issues raised during the life of this Project from the CNAA perspective. The Sub-group is preparing this and will circulate to the Committee when it has been finalised. **Action: JW.** KR adds that he had met informally with Dan Flitton who confirmed that the Project had now taken on a political dimension and the focus is definitely on the earlier Reaches with only Reach 3 having funding which will be from Affinity Water. He intimated that the other Reaches (4,5,6) were on the back burner. KR will press him further to try to remove the planning blight that is still hanging over the Cottonmill site. **Action:KR** to write to Phil Bruce Green and DF for confirmation that the major re-routing through Reach 4 will not be happening.

7. Summer Show

Ask for Sub- aqua club to be open on Saturday evening for setting-up. **Action: JW**

Reminder email to members. **Action: JW**

Posters to display at the sites to encourage nonmembers— **Action KR** to prepare and print for Cottonmill, sending electronic versions to JR and BG.

John Boden has agreed to judge (**Action: JW** to send him a reminder) with JR and MM assisting with recording scores. Thank you gift to judge - **Action: KR**

TB apologised that he won't be able to attend the Show and JW will take his role at the door to register visitors and of checking membership when entrants submit their forms and fee. **Action: TB** to supply cash box, registration sheets, some membership forms and entry cards.

Prizes- **Action: TB** to check what is in stock, **MM** to prepare kids rosettes, **JW** to contact Aylett's for donation of vouchers.

AOB

There will be a BBQ on Nunnery 2 for plot holders on that site and the organiser will borrow equipment from Cottonmill shed.

National Allotment Week-KR arranging to meet Radio Verulam presenter Jonny Seabrook who will do some informal interviews on 13th August at Cottonmill.

Foodbank-box moved to MM's bench to avoid confusion as some items have gone missing on Cottonmill. JR hasn't started the collection on Nunnery yet.

Date for Autumn Festival - Sunday 27th October 2019.

On Nunnery, Phil Bruce-Green has said that where a shed is left on a plot it and the contents can be taken over by CNAA. As there are two petrol trimmers left when a plot was handed back BG is proposing to overhaul them and one can be used on Nunnery and one on Cottonmill but for Plot Officers only to use to maintain common areas.

Seeds- **Action:TB** will put catalogues in leaflet holder on Cottonmill and Sopwell. He will drop some round to BG for Nunnery and have some available at he Summer Show. **Action: JW** to add to next email. EW suggested that a representative of Kings seeds gave a good speech at he recent NAS conference and he might be a good choice if CNAA wants to organise an event with a speaker . **Action: EW** will check his name and send to Committee.

NEXT MEETING

To be arranged

Action Summary

Cottonmill Boundary Dispute	Ask SADC to send formal adjudication to plot holders and also to put clear boundary marks on plots.	KR	
	Amendment to Constitution on agenda of 2020 AGM	JW	
Newsletter	Suggestions for content and features to JF	All	
Website	Shed adverts to be removed as now sold	JR	
Ver Project	Circulate briefing being prepared for Lib Dem Councillors to Committee.	JW	
	Contact Dan Flitton and ask him to confirm Cottonmill is no longer under threat of closure	KR	
Summer Show	See individual actions at 7 above	All	

Website	Contact Juliet Foxwell for additional training if necessary.	JR	On-going
Use of strimmers	Notices on Nunnery to remind about being considerate to others.	BG	On-going
Kings seeds	Catalogues into leaflet holders on sites and at Summer Show.	TB, BG	
	Add reminder to next email to members	JW	
	Name of potential speaker from Kings Seeds	EW	