

**Capel St Mary Allotments Association**  
**Minutes of General Committee Meeting**  
**Monday 19 June 2023**

Present: CH, DS, PH, ML, RB, DA, AA, TS, WR

Apologies: MD

**1. Matters Arising from General Committee Meeting – 6 March 2023**

- There were no matters arising from previous minutes

**2. Chairman's Report**

- CH thanked the Committee for their help in preparing the site for the visit by Felixstowe Allotment Association as well as helping on the day. 13 visitors attended.
- Scarecrow Competition – Our scarecrow will be put in place on Wednesday 21 June at the front of the site.

**3. Reports**

- **Treasurer and Membership Secretary**

- Grand total cash £16,726.88      Total available cash £14,630.38
- Rotovator fund £1,075.97      Site Maintenance -£1,593.35 (Budget-£2,241)
- Mower Fund £5,528.00      Site Capital fund £4.77
- Membership – Membership Year started (Sept 2022) with 342 paying and 3 honorary members. We've had 24 new, 32 resignations so current numbers are 334 paying members and 3 honorary.
- Hut sales to date £17,587      Hut Purchases £11,364

- **Site Manager**

- ML/RB to investigate the cost of replacing some of the picnic tables prior to Picnic on the Plot.
- New Fence – we still have a problem with badgers / rabbits burrowing in/out and need to ensure all gates are closed correctly on entering or leaving the site.
- ML suggested we should have padlocks on other pedestrian gates with them being closed from dusk to dawn. ML will contact PC for their comments.
- A new lightweight battery powered lawnmower has been purchased and ploholders to be advised it is now available.
- The electric starter on the petrol mower is causing problems and ML is looking to get this fixed.
- New applications – ML emailed 3 who wish to take plots and awaiting responses and currently we have 6 on the waiting list.
- There are some neglected plots on site and ML will contact ploholders regarding these.
- It was suggested we have some wildlife cameras on site and it was agreed these should be purchased and set up.
- Watering – ploholders to be reminded of when it is best to water during hot spells of weather.
- Could we harvest or rain water on site, if so how? Could we investigate if we have a water source on site.
- Signage – ML to discuss with PC possibility of a new info board by the main gate.
- Could we use metal hoops on edge of grass to stop people parking on it?

- **IT**

- First cut of OASIS has been prepared. MD need the names of the judges and stewards confirmed by WR so that he can make a start on the "stock printing"
- BD was pleased that the talk at Felixstowe went well.
- Not a great deal else to report, other than actioning the usual newsletters and general mailings as requested.

- **Stores Manager / Hut**
  - Hut sales now starting to level off somewhat.
  - Still finding price increases on many items so starting to look at alternative suppliers.
  - Most plants grown on site have now been sold. Need to look at quantities for next year with possibly more flowers being available. CH thanked DS, RB etc for overseeing the planting.
  - Hut rota is now filled for the year and DS thanks AA for actioning this.
  - Have purchased new type of netting along with more enviromesh and butterfly netting.
  - The Precinct flowers were put up at the end of May.
  - Further delivery of compost expected and need to confirm if we can still sell peat compost to end of 2023 or 2024.
- **Seed Scheme / Capel Capers**
  - Seed scheme will start up again in July following delivery of new catalogues which will be distributed to liaison members and need to encourage online orders wherever possible.
  - Seed potatoes – PH suggested we continue with current supplier for these.
  - Capel Capers – July article submitted including show flyer and will run same for August.
- **Show Secretary**
  - Banksian Medal – TS to let WR have this at next meeting.
  - Show schedules sent out and WR to check with MD as had reports last 2 pages are not on website.
  - WR still to go through Judges rota and responsibilities.
  - Flyers to be issued in July to liaison members for delivery.
  - AA to let WR know when raffle tickets received and GC to print labels for postal members.
  - Kings Trip 22 June 2023 – 18 people will be visiting Kings Seeds and all have been updated on arrangements.
- **General Secretary's Report**
  - SSALG – Looks as if this will fold at AGM in November but confirmed we will receive our usual donation for the Show. Next meeting is in August.

#### 4. Picnic on the Plot

- Games – DS to organise
- Licence – AA to organise this with Babergh DC for Scarecrow Tavern and AA/DA will stock bar.
- Quiz – TS to organise
- Raffle – Eddie Cox to organise
- Event to run from 4-10pm

#### 5. Any Other Business

- A plotholder had offered to collate any surplus chemicals people wished to dispose of but the Committee felt this was not appropriate at present.
- Defib training – felt no further training was required at present but will review at a later date.
- As PH is unavailable on the Sunday of the Show DA offered to assist with the cups.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

Date of next meeting: 14 August 2023

Circulation: General Committee members, SB & notice board.

Signed.....