

**Capel St Mary Allotments Association**  
**Minutes of General Committee Meeting**  
**Monday 14 August 2023**

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

**1. Matters Arising from General Committee Meeting – 19 June 2023**

- We may need to replace our scarecrow for next year's competition as getting rather tired.

**2. Chairman's Report**

- CH thanked all for their help with Picnic on the Plot, approx. 80 attended this year.
- The draw raised approx. £100 and a donation will be made to Somerville Heart Foundation.
- CH announced the Best Kept Allotment results which were:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Andrew Tokely (293 points)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Dennis Smith (279 points)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Angie Armitage (276 points)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Graham Leach (272 points)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Gavin Leeks (272 points)
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Lorraine Connolly (271 points)
- Best Kept Polytunnel – 1<sup>st</sup> Rob Birnie, 2<sup>nd</sup> Andrew Tokely, 3<sup>rd</sup> Colin Hayward
- Best Newcomer – Simon Wade

**3. Future of Committee**

- The Executive Committee had met to discuss the future of the Committee and succession planning,
- We need to consider all roles of the Committee and who could take these on going forward with maybe looking to involve other ploholders prior to joining the Committee to gain experience.

**4. Village Show**

- WR ran through the Helpers Rota and list to be sent to all participants. Also discussed judges list.
- Set up to commence 2pm Friday 1 September with tables etc being collected from site.
- Need to ensure everything has Village Show on going forward for continuity.
- Photographs – WR to talk with PB/PH re new system for display etc.
- Show reminder has been sent to all members.
- DS to check scales for mammoth comp.
- DA /PH to talk re cups etc.

**5. Reports**

• **Treasurer and Membership Secretary**

- Grand total cash £10,054.54      Total available cash £7,958.04
- Rotovator fund £1,075.97      Site Maintenance -£1,381.65 (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 27 new, 32 resignations so current numbers are 337 paying members and 3 honorary.
- Hut sales to date £20,781      Hut Purchases £21,350

• **Site Manager**

- Few sites are being vacated which may clear waiting list and 1 has been vacated in polytunnel.
- Quotes received for new picnic furniture. Due to cost will repair what we have for now but may replace benches.
- Ongoing questions with PC over grey water and 2 quotes being sourced for additional septic tank near Plotters Retreat. Emptying these is costly and AA suggested possibility of anerobic digester system could save cost on emptying but may be expensive to install.

- Fence – may still have a badger in wildlife area. ML still to look at costs of wildlife cameras.
- ML demonstrated possible way of harvesting rain water from polytunnel. Will look at costs / effectiveness and carry out a trial.
- **IT**
  - Stock printing for how including games actioned.
  - Photograph / handicraft topics for 20224 will be printed and available for Show.
  - Show now open on website for entries,
  - Seed scheme printing actioned.
- **Stores Manager / Hut**
  - Sales starting to pick up again.
  - Horticultural Suppliers closing end of October and looking for alternative suppliers.
  - Will need to look at alternative suppliers for plug plants for next year.
  - Have stocked up on most products.
  - DS thanked all who had helped by working in Hut this year.
- **Seed Scheme / Capel Capers**
  - Seed and potato scheme now up and running but with Horticultural Supplies closing have gone to their supplier direct for seed potatoes. To get a good price, and no delivery charges, we are proposing to join forces with Felixstowe Allotments.
  - Capel Capers – September article actioned.
- **General Secretary's Report**

SSALG Meeting held recently and following discussed:

  - Looks as if it will continue as have a possible new Treasurer.
  - Discussed possibility of local associations working together as little support from NAS.
  - 10 February 2024 – Potato Day at Otley College.
  - Discussed issues on suppliers and Ipswich Allotments compiling a list. Suggested we did similar and we share lists.
  - Suffolk Show 224 – Theme “Grow Your Own”. May need help from associations o stock exhibit.
  - Discussed Peat / No Peat Compost trials and best so far Silver Grow but still need slow release food added. Deadline now Dec 2024.

## 6. Any Other Business

- Wood store – can we move on some of these items on as no longer used eg freezer, generator etc. Agreed we should. Also there is some old wood needs burning.
- Fence edges – difficult to cut grass up to new fence. Ground needs packing down. Possible job for work in along with grass around polytunnel

Meeting closed at 9.55 pm

Date of next meeting: 25 September 2023

Circulation: General Committee members, SB & notice board.

Signed.....