

**MINUTES OF SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY'S
22nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held on
SATURDAY 19th January 2019
at 10.30am at
SUNNYSIDE RURAL TRUST**

Present:

John Eaton (Chair)
Andy James (Treasurer)
Jenny Sippings (Secretary)
Cynthia Fulks (Minutes))
John Goffey
Kate Rankin
Clive Smith
Diana Ball
Geoff Giles
Geoff Halls
Jane Dickenson
William Facey
Marsha Facey
Adrian Scarborough
Lin Phillips
Denre Bruins
Charlotte Bruins
Paul Baylis
V Baylis
Neil Kennedy
Tricia Kennedy
Peter Block
Fiona Duck
John Driver
Jeanne Woodcraft
Keith Shaw
Fiona Naylor
Jeff Naylor
Simon Heywood
Andy Dolwin
Diana Calderwood
Andrew Calderwood

Apologies for Absence:

Wendy Calder
Philip Biss
Annick Mulcahy
Helen Russell
Philippa Jones
Angela Wheeldon
John Savage
Deborah Figueiredo
Simon Weightman
Diane Mix
Phil Mix
Christine Locke

Prior to the meeting the Chairman gave information on the operation of the SSRT Defibrillator; more precise details are in the Newsletter and on the website.

1/19 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received (see above).

2/19 To approve the minutes of the last AGM

The Minutes of the AGM held on 20th January 2018 were approved and signed.

3/19 To receive the Chairman's report

John Eaton presented his report, summarised as follows:

- John thanked the members of the Committee and the other various volunteers, Lin Phillips who continues as editor of the newsletter and works alongside Jenny to ensure this is published on time, mainly for electronic distribution with a few (12) by hand (delivered by Phil Biss). Also to Cynthia, Philippa and Fiona for cleaning the toilet on a monthly rota basis, to John Goffey on water duties and Phil and associated volunteers on the open day. Unfortunately Cynthia and Wendy have decided to step down from the committee this year and we thank them for mulling the wine for the Christmas Drinks, organising the Open Day, typing the minutes of SAS meetings and organising the toilet cleaning rota.
- John outlined the committee functions and that each member had a role i.e. newsletter production, working parties, open day, Christmas drinks, tree management, plot inspections and plot lettings treasury, water management etc. He stressed that volunteers for the society's committee are always welcome. There are 6 meetings per year.
- Allotment Management Team – The Chairman explained that this was a subset of the Council and was attended by the Town Clerk at the 4 meetings per year. Rents would not be changed again this year as the current rent covers all expenditure with a healthy reserve left with the Council for major works/repairs on the three sites in the town. The rents have remained static for 4 years. SAS had received funds from this reserve for work on the roadways, gates, tree surgery works and half the cost of preparing the land for the main shed. The Council will also be contributing to the expansion of the water system on SSN as this will be our main 2019 project. In general the Council receives annual income of approximately £9000 from rents for the three town sites and £2/3,000 is added to reserves each year. We try and work with the Council by helping with our labour by volunteers on major projects. The current reserve has been built up over many previous years.
- Rights of way – Council continues to close all roads on Sunnyside once a year except for A Road, to ensure no rights are lost by default – this is a legal commitment. Access for allotment holders is not affected. A general discussion took place about the need for dogs to be kept on a lead at all times whilst they were on the site whether this was on the public footpaths, or the private paths throughout the site. Whilst dogs are on tenants plots they must be kept under control and not allowed to wander. We continue to experience unpleasant incidents with the public walking their dogs and dog fouling. The Chairman will again request more serious signs from the council.

- John Driver explained why the hedge separating the church yard from the site on SSO had been cut down quite low. This was because the hedge hadn't been maintained for several years and it was needed to re-establish new growth at the bottom and then the hedge can be left at a manageable height of 5 feet or so.
- The problem of grass cuttings being deposited on site by Grantham Mew's residents has mainly stopped only for it to be replaced by leaves being thrown over the fence. Notification of this will be made to the Town Warden and notices from the Council will be requested.
- The Chairman reported that installing fencing as a preventative measure for stopping deer entering the site was a huge cost and could not be funded. Deer culling of approximately 600 per year takes place by Ashridge to keep the population in check, but nothing could prevent them travelling to the allotment sites.
- Waiting List - There is currently a very short waiting list of 8 people and a few vacant plots.
- Hazel Coppice – The recent work on this coppice has resulted in bean sticks being available. Tenants should help themselves and pay a contribution to the Society's funds. Thanks were given to Bernard Axford for his preparation work.
- Plot lettings and Inspections – Geoff Halls will be taking responsibility for letting plots in the future and Jenny and Diana continue with plot inspections and are lenient wherever possible.
- Shed News – Two SAS sheds are now in use; one for tools and the main shed for storing the society's equipment of tables, chairs, gazebos etc. The next stage is constructing the racking to hold the wood pile. Thanks were given to Clive Smith who once again has done some excellent work in this area supported by others.
- Bonfires – These should be lit infrequently and managed. Consideration should be given to our near neighbours who should not be subjected to daily smoky fires

4/19 To consider and approve the Society's accounts and to consider proposals for expenditure

Andy James, Treasurer, presented the annual accounts, and explained that the 2018 Open Day had contributed approximately £1000 profit to the funds and together with the highest level of discount received on the seed order and contributions for the pruning instruction workshops the bank balance was a healthy £4565.35. Geoff Halls had been instrumental in getting some very decent prizes for the Open Day raffle and in general, subscriptions received for membership to the SAS were increased. Another small source of income was the donated Rotovator which is available for tenants to use for a donation to society funds. This is petrol driven and can be quite heavy to use. Clive Smith will give brief instructions to anyone wishing to use it. Expenditure for the shed projects has been scaled down this year but there is still an amount of physical work to be completed on this project. The accounts were approved.

5/19 To receive any nominations for officers/committee members

The following officers were nominated:

Chair: John Eaton

Treasurer: Andy James

Secretary: Jenny Sippings

The position of Vice Chair remains vacant.

All remaining current committee members seek re-election with the exception of Cynthia Fulks and Wendy Calder who both stand down this year. Jeanne Woodcraft volunteered to stand as a committee member. John Eaton said he would continue as Chairman at present but would like to stand down in the near future and welcomed interested parties to talk to him about the scope of the role.

6/19 To elect Officers and Committee

The following people were elected to the committee by group election:

Chair: John Eaton
Treasurer: Andy James
Secretary: Jenny Sippings

Committee Members:

Geoff Halls
Angela Wheeldon
John Goffey
Kate Rankin
Lin Phillips
Diana Ball
Jeanne Woodcraft

The Chairman re-emphasised that any tenant considering joining the committee can observe at a committee meeting by prior arrangement with the Secretary. The next committee meeting is 7.30pm at the Council Chambers in the Civic Centre on 19th March 2019.

7/19 To elect Allotments' representative on Town Council's Allotment Management Team

John Eaton was elected as the site representative, and Geoff Halls as the Deputy with Jenny Sippings as the substitute.

8/19 To consider future developments

A general discussion took place on solar panels and their use on the site; some tenants were using mini ones in their greenhouses or to power lights in sheds. It was generally agreed that larger ones out in the open may be vulnerable to being stolen on the site.

Clive Smith will manage the buying and planting of approximately 10 fruit trees near the SAS sheds, the fruit of which will be made available to tenants in due course. A rota system for watering the young trees to help them get established may be required and again Clive will manage this. Several tenants (in particular Keith Shaw) volunteered to help and it was generally thought to be a positive addition to the allotments.

9/19 Any other business

- a) A general discussion took place about the lack of volunteers for the Open Day and the same jobs falling to the same few stalwart volunteers each year. The committee will consider the future of the open day and how it might be organised differently for future dates. Several tenants expressed their views that as it usually fell at the same time each year they had other pressing commitments. Kate Rankin volunteered to help organise the next event. The committee was informed that Wendy Calder had written up last years' details and these would assist for future events.
- b) A further discussion was had about the society nominating a particular charity each year for our donation of the open day raffle prize money and a suggestion that as a charity we we may like to consider a small donation (£50/100) to our charity of choice each year. Suggestions were requested for suitable charities and specific names of the Pepper Foundation and the SRT our onsite local charity were put forward together with a more general suggestion from several tenants that it should be a local charity and be nature based as this was aligned with what we are involved in. The Committee will consider this more fully.
- c) Tony Lightfoot's wife Sarah has donated his gardening books to the society and these are available to tenants for a small donation. We wish Tony well.
- d) It was reported there were overhanging branches on the northwest corner of the site. Also there is split conifer on B Road near SRT – John driver agreed to take care of this. John Eaton will also check with the council about the encroaching hedge near Grantham Mews.
- e) The next AGM is scheduled for January 19th 2020

The meeting closed at 12.00 pm.



Sunnyside Allotment Society

Statement of Accounts for Year Ending 31 December 2018

Opening Balance £3,821.49

INCOME

Subscriptions	£328.00	(292)
Produce Sales	£174.00	(94)
Donations	£27.00	(113)
Material and Tool Sales	£109.50	(27)
Seed Order 2018	£1,322.30	(1,029)
Rotivator useage	£20.00	

Pruning Talk £114.00

OPEN DAY

Refreshments	£382.44	(347)
Raffle	£138.00	(88)
Produce	£295.45	(483)
Plants	£179.05	(181)
Meet and Greet	£101.30	(70)

TOTAL INCOME £3,191.04

Income less expenditure £743.86

Closing Balance £4,565.35

EXPENDITURE

Insurance	£83.64	(82)
NSALG affiliation	£240.00	(234)
Printing	£141.77	(108)
Postage	£2.97	(7)
Seed Order 2018	£1,106.33	(894)
AGM hall hire	£30.00	
Gift voucher (for pruning talk)	£31.50	
Tea Hut & Toilet costs	£120.96	

Open Day expenses £90.79 (102)

Shed Project £251.12 (1501)
Other Maintenance £210.10 (578)

Donations

Hospice (raffle) £138.00 (138)

TOTAL EXPENDITURE £2,447.18

Verified as a true reflection of the society's financial position at 31 December 2018

Jane Hughes FCCA

13/1/19