

**MINUTES OF SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY'S**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**held on**  
**SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 1999**  
**at**  
**THE GABLE HALL**

**Present:**

Ted Dyer (Chairman)  
Jenny Sippings (Secretary)  
John Savage (Treasurer)  
Fred Anderson  
Phil Andrews  
Karen Bevan  
Peter Block  
George Brown  
Rosemary Burnett  
Peter Chapman  
Alistair Clayton  
Rod Cottrell  
Jane Dickenson  
Fiona Duck  
Hazel Grimwood  
Ken Harbord  
Simon Heywood  
Olga Lassman  
Michael Longley  
Christine O'Callaghan  
Kit Owens  
Lisa Pedley  
Peter Phizackerley  
Peggy Picco  
Rose Scarborough  
Clive Smith  
Patrick Stileman  
Ian Stowe  
Billy Wall  
Clive Weakley  
Angela Wheeldon  
Pete Wheeler  
Rina Wheeler  
Jeanne Woodcraft

**Apologies for Absence:**

Chris Davidson  
Philip Biss  
Liz Rolls  
Peter Allen  
Peter & Betty Fowell  
Ray Cheshire  
Betty Patterson  
Graham & Carol Hall  
Jean Barnett  
Anne Spreadbury  
Geoffrey Giles  
Bert Roberts

N.B. The Town Warden, Tony Dunn,  
attended the meeting as an 'observer'.

## **1/99 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record by all those attending.

## **2/99 Society's Accounts**

John Savage thanked George Brown for auditing the accounts. Copies of the accounts were available at the meeting.

34 members paid subscriptions last year and some members paid donations towards hiring a digger to install the new water tanks. A contribution was also made to Ted Dyer towards the hire of a mower for grass cutting on Sunnyside Old.

A surplus of £129.51 has been carried forward. Subscriptions are now due and these could be paid after the meeting to John Savage.

## **3/99 Membership of Societies**

A paper was issued outlining the respective benefits of joining The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners and The Henry Doubleday Research Association and these were discussed.

The NSALG would cost £1 per member to join and a question was raised as to why only 34 of our members paid subscriptions last year. It was then suggested that members should be approached personally to pay. Ted Dyer explained that the rules of the society state that subscriptions are voluntary and that all allotment holders are automatically members. There was also some confusion between allotment rents and the SAS' subscription fees. Discussion also took place as to whether non-paying members should receive newsletters.

A suggestion was made that a sub-group could join the NSALG, those interested paying £1 each and receiving the advantages of membership. Another proposal was put forward that there should be two classes of membership of the SAS: associate (no fee) and full membership. The society could then join the NSALG on behalf of full members. A Special General Meeting would have to be called to change the Society's rules if this proved necessary. The vast majority of those attending the meeting voted in principal to join the NSALG.

Membership of the HDRA was then discussed. It seemed that it was possibly more relevant to individuals than the Society as a whole. It was pointed out that organic seed potatoes would be available locally from Cook's Delight. The HDRA have a very good web site which is easily accessible to individuals. The vast majority of those in attendance voted not to join the HDRA. It was agreed to review this decision at the next AGM.

## **4/99 Hazel Coppice**

Patrick Stileman presented his very comprehensive paper and the project was discussed in some detail. It was proposed to use 1½ plots rented by Ken Harbord, adjacent to the Sunnyside Rural Trust's Training Centre on C road. Questions were raised about agreement from the Council concerning long term use of these sites. Ted Dyer has discussed the possibility of a lease with Betty Patterson to give security of tenure. Ted requested 10 years, but the council is only likely to give 5 years. It was also asked whether the council would give any financial guarantee.

Further discussion took place on the size of the plots, how much would be produced and its merits as a habitat for dormice. Two days would be needed for the project: one for preparation and one for planting. Suggestions were made about publicising the project and seeking funding from other organisations. The vast majority voted that the project should proceed with or without guarantees from the council. Proposed working party dates will be published in the next newsletter.

## **5/99 Clearance of Gardens**

Ted Dyer discussed the possibility of further working parties. Although there were only a few volunteers last year a number of gardens were cleared. The water tanks working party was a great success, with a record number of volunteers.

We are more likely to get funding from the council for additional water tanks if we can undertake clearance of gardens ourselves. It was proposed that these should take place in February and March, 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. The January newsletter would provide details. Publicity for these working parties would be good PR for the allotments.

## **6/99 Nominations**

All the present committee members are willing to stand again. No other nominations had been received by the Secretary prior to the AGM. Rod Cottrell and Ian Stowe offered to stand to fill the Committee vacancies.

## **7/99 Election of Officers**

Kit Owens assumed the Chair for this item and asked for nominations for Chairman. Ted Dyer was proposed by Ken Harbord and seconded by Phil Andrews and was re-elected unanimously. Kit Owens made a vote of thanks to Ted for his tireless work on behalf of the Society.

Ted Dyer then resumed the Chair and the other officers and committee members were elected. Ted proposed that Peter Chapman should be Vice-Chair and he was elected (in his absence) unopposed.

The new committee consists of:

Ted Dyer	Chair	872684
Peter Chapman	Vice-Chair	871470
Jenny Sippings	Secretary	865890
John Savage	Treasurer	873877
Ken Harbord		865757
Fiona Duck		874334
Ian Stowe		876815
Rod Cottrell		384963

## **8/99 Any Other Business**

Kit Owens raised the question of untidy gardens, particularly the issue of thistle seeds etc causing a nuisance to neighbouring gardens. Discussion took place as to whether there should be an obligation for tenants to inform the committee if there is a good reason for neglecting their gardens. The tenancy agreement states that gardens should be kept in a good state of cultivation. Ted has proposed that this should be changed to at least clean and tidy. Some tenants have been sent letters by the council and some have been given notice to quit. It was asked whether people could pay to have their gardens cleared through the Society. The merits of covering plots with black plastic were also discussed. Kit requested that the committee should give further consideration to untidy gardens at their next meeting.

It was requested that the newsletter should always include committee members' names and telephone numbers.

The meeting closed at 12.10 p.m.