

**MINUTES OF SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY'S
4TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held on
SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER, 2000
at
THE GABLE HALL**

Present:

Ted Dyer (Chairman)
Jenny Sippings (Secretary)
John Savage (Treasurer)
Phil Andrews
Jean Barnett
Brenda Baynes
Karen Bevan
Peter Block
Mr & Mrs G. Brown
Peter Chapman
Sue Dabbagh
Jane Dickenson
John Driver
Fiona Duck
Peter Fowell
Hazel Grimwood
Jackie Guest
Ken Harbord
Simon Heywood
Olga Lassman
Kit Owens
Peggy Picco
Clive Smith
Patrick Stileman
Clive Weakley
Angela Wheeldon
Pete Wheeler
Jeanne Woodcraft

Apologies for Absence:

Philip Biss
Rod Cottrell
Betty Fowell
Graham & Carol Hall
Rina Wheeler

1/00 Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

2/00 Society's Accounts

John Savage reported that there was an excess of £33.52 over income in the past year. There is presently £163.03 in the Nationwide Building Society. Fifty one members paid subscriptions last year. Donations have been received from some members.

The NSALG seed scheme has raised nearly £40 for the Society (not shown in last year's accounts) and this has nearly paid for the subscription of £48.10.

Subscriptions are now due for 2001 and these should be paid to John Savage.

3/00 Membership of National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners

Jenny Sippings thanked all those who placed seed orders (about 12 in all) and pointed out that the seed scheme is only available to paid up members. The NSALG send us 3 copies of their magazine per quarter. One of these is kept on file and the others may be borrowed by members from the Tea Hut on B17. The NSALG also offers an insurance service.

Papers relating to the NSALG were displayed for members to look at after the meeting.

4/00 Hazel Coppice

The Mayor was very impressed with the turn out on the Hazel Coppice planting day. Ted Dyer thanked Patrick Stileman who masterminded the project. All the trees have taken. Ted also thanked Ken Harbord who has regularly strimmed the coppice. A recent working party replenished the wood chippings around the trees.

5/00 Clearance of Gardens

The issue of untidy gardens has been raised with the Council and letters were sent to a number of tenants concerning the state of their plots. This resulted in a number of terminations. There are now 10 or 12 vacant gardens on B road which will now need clearing to attract new tenants.

So far this autumn there have been two clearance days. The town council paid for the hire of a digger to relocate a water tank on Sunnyside New and it was then used to remove tree stumps from Sunnyside Old. The second clearance day on 11th November was a very wet day, but some gardens were cleared on Sunnyside New. As a consequence some of these gardens have already been let and are being looked after.

There are 5 or 6 piles of rubbish on Sunnyside New which need to be burnt. Kit Owen suggested raising membership fees so that the Society could hire machinery to help with clearance days. Ted Dyer expressed his concerns about the Society owning or hiring machinery because of insurance implications. Ted suggested that members could privately hire equipment or bring their own tools. Clive Smith supported Kit's suggestion of increasing membership fees and suggested a sub-committee should organise clearance days. Kit's proposal was put to the vote. It was supported by 7 members only, and therefore was not carried.

Ted informed the meeting that the Society has acquired 10 rolls of black plastic for covering plots once cleared. Each roll should cover between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{2}{3}$ of a plot depending on shape and size. Ted has also been collecting heavy timbers for weighting down the black plastic. The possibility of using Roundup was also discussed. Ted was not keen for the Society to use chemicals, but that individuals were free to do so on their own plots if they so wished.

Simon Heywood raised the question of allotment publicity. Ted replied that this is the Council's responsibility. If enquiries are made to the Council they are referred to allotments representatives who show prospective tenants around sites. Peggy Picco offered to do a leaflet drop to new houses.

Phil Andrews stated that he did not feel it was the role of the Society to be clearing plots for tenants. He was supported in this view by Peter Chapman. Ted pointed out that we are not doing clearance for existing tenants, but to attract new tenants.

6/00 Allotments' representative on Town Council's Allotments Committee

When the Council sent out rent invoices they also asked for nominations for a sites representative on the Allotments Committee. Several papers were received mostly nominating Ted Dyer, but there was also a nomination for Peter Chapman. Ted Dyer said that some tenants may not have been aware of his intention to stand down this year, but that he would still be willing to deputise. However he did not expect to have to attend every meeting. Phil Andrews nominated Peter Chapman and he was seconded by Peter Wheeler. Peter Chapman was then elected by members.

7/00 Hire Shop discount scheme

Fiona Duck has not received any feedback from other members about the scheme which offers 10% discount. Individual members have made use of the scheme.

8/00 Nominations

No nominations had been received by the Secretary prior to the AGM. Ted Dyer is standing down as Chairman this year.

9/00 Election of Officers

After considerable discussion about the role of the Chairman and various nominations the following were elected:

Peter Chapman	Chair	871470
Ted Dyer	Vice Chair	872684
Jenny Sippings	Secretary	865890
John Savage	Treasurer	873877
Ken Harbord		865757
Fiona Duck		874334
Rod Cottrell		384963
Patrick Stileman		874457
Clive Weakley		875373

10/00 Any Other Business

Kit Owens presented a gift to Ted on behalf of members and thanked him for all his hard work and dedication over previous years. Jenny Sippings read out a letter received from Betty Fowell suggesting that Ted should be made first Honorary President of the Society and thanking all committee members for their hard work.

John Savage asked for members to pay their subscriptions.

Ted Dyer invited members to stay behind for refreshments and to look at the exhibition put together by Angela Wheeldon. The meeting closed at 11.40 a.m.