

**MINUTES OF SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY'S
5TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held on
SATURDAY 24TH NOVEMBER, 2001
at
SUNNYSIDE RURAL TRUST**

Present:

Peter Chapman (Chairman)
Jenny Sippings (Secretary)
John Savage (Treasurer)
Jean Barnett
Peter Block
Jane Dickenson
Fiona Duck
Ted Dyer
Betty Fowell
Peter Fowell
Ken Harbord
Lynn Hendry
Peter Phizackerley
Peggy Picco
Rose Scarborough
Clive Smith
Patrick Stileman
Chris Watt
Angela Wheeldon
Rina Wheeler
Pete Wheeler

Apologies for Absence:

Karen Bevan
Bridie & George Brown
Rod Cottrell
Hazel Grimwood
Graham & Carol Hall
Kit Owens
Angela Walsh
Clive Weakley

Peter Chapman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Sunnyside Rural Trust for the use of their hall. Peter decided to take items in a different order to that outlined on the agenda.

1/01 Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

2/01 Chairman's report

Peter Chapman reported on the events which took place last year. The open day and barbecue were our first social events. Outings had been suggested to the membership, but very little interest was shown.

Peter also presented some information from the council concerning allotment sites in Berkhamsted:

Size

- Dellfield 4 acres
- Butts Meadow 1.2 acres
- Sunnyside Old & New 11.4 acres

Tenants

There are 193 allotment tenants, of whom 89 are on Sunnyside.

Rental Income

In total rental income is £2600.

- Dellfield £480
- Butts Meadow £375
- Sunnyside Old & New £1720 (this does not include income from Sunnyside Rural Trust)

3/01 Consider and approve the Society's accounts

Thanks to George Brown for auditing the accounts.

There were 3 new items in the accounts: barbecue, NSALG seed order and Lions' Community Fair.

We have £207 in the building society. John Savage therefore suggested that subscriptions remain at £2 and that receipts would not be issued this year.

It was then put to the meeting that the accounts should be approved. This was proposed by Peter Wheeler and seconded by Ted Dyer.

4/01 Allotments' representatives

The town council have appointed Angela Wheeldon and Ted Dyer as members of their management committee. Peter Chapman is currently our site representative and is willing to stand again. This was proposed by Angela Wheeldon and seconded by Peggy Picco.

5/01 To receive any nominations for officers / committee members

Rod Cottrell has moved away from Berkhamsted and has therefore resigned from the committee. The rest of the present committee is willing to stand again. Graham Hall is willing to stand to represent Sunnyside New. This was proposed by Peter Chapman and seconded by Ted Dyer. Peter then nominated Angela Wheeldon and this was seconded by Clive Smith.

6/01 Election of Officers

Peter Chapman proposed en bloc election of officers and committee members. This was seconded by Ken Harbord. Peter also thanked the members of the committee for their work over the past year. He also thanked Fiona Duck and Brenda Baynes for producing the newsletter.

The committee elected is as follows:

Peter Chapman	Chair	871470
Ted Dyer	Vice Chair	872684
Jenny Sippings	Secretary	865890
John Savage	Treasurer	873877
Ken Harbord		865757
Fiona Duck		874334
Graham Hall		873408
Patrick Stileman		874457
Clive Weakley		875373
Angela Wheeldon		874440

7/01 Hazel coppice

Patrick Stileman reported that the trees are now 2 years old and growing nicely. 5 were replaced last week. Wood chippings have been placed around the base of the trees and the deer are not causing damage to the trees. The coppice has been a successful project organised by the Society.

Ted Dyer informed the meeting that a friend of Patrick's has donated 25 whips, therefore there are 20 spare trees. Ted suggested that we should acquire a spare piece of land to plant the trees. Peter Chapman suggest that this should be discussed by the committee at a future meeting.

8/01 Clearance of gardens

Ted Dyer reported that through the efforts of tenants that the working parties have improved the sites and have made them more attractive to potential tenants.

16 gardens were cleared last year and at least 5 of these have been let to tenants. Ted feels that the working parties are very worthwhile. He thanked the helpers and Angela Wheeldon for providing refreshments.

9/01 Hire Shop discount scheme

Fiona Duck assumed that the discount is still available to tenants and Peter Chapman mentions this to new tenants.

10/01 Open day and barbecue

Peter thanked Patrick Stileman and Rod Cottrell for organising the barbecue. It was well attended and a very successful event. It was felt that it should be held again next year.

There was a continual flow of visitors on the open day and it resulted in 2 new tenants. Jenny Sippings thanked Angela Wheeldon for all her hard work and suggested that if we organised another open day a sub-committee should be set up. Clive Smith suggested that we should review open days after running them for 3 years. It was proposed that the open day and barbecue should take place on the last Saturday in June if this is convenient for Sunnyside Rural Trust.

11/01 Any other business

Sunnyside New Discussion took place about the Sunnyside New site. Sunnyside Rural Trust have a considerable holding on Sunnyside New. Apparently there is a move afoot from the council to redesignate Sunnyside New e.g. butterfly meadow.

Church carpark The church is trying to extend their carpark. The original response from the council was to turn them down for more land. There is a concern that when the lease comes up for renewal in 2003 the boundaries will be changed. The carpark is already encroaching on allotment land. There is also a dialogue taking place about resurfacing the carpark. Peter Fowell asked whether tenants are permitted to park in the church carpark. Ted Dyer replied that he thinks they are.

Railway fence Railtrack is going to replace the fence alongside the allotments, like the one in Ellesmere Road (this could affect tenants' sheds abutting this boundary).

Sheds Tenants should ask permission from the council before putting up a shed and should inform the council of size and location.

Further discussion about Sunnyside New Clive Smith suggested that we should plant a hazel coppice on Sunnyside New to show activity. This will be discussed at a future committee meeting. Chris from Sunnyside Rural Trust told us (unofficial) that discussion had taken place about what SRT should do on New, hazel and lavender had been suggested. Peter Chapman reported that we have probably tripled the number of tenants over the past 10 years. Angela Wheeldon raised the issue of access on New for tractor with manure. Is there a spare plot?

Photograph display Angela pointed out the photograph display of the barbecue, open day and community fair.

The meeting closed at 11.30 a.m.