

**MINUTES OF SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY'S
6TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held on
SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER, 2002
at
SUNNYSIDE RURAL TRUST**

Present:

Ted Dyer (Acting Chairman)
Jenny Sippings (Secretary)
John Savage (Treasurer)
Daniel Bartlett
Brenda Baynes
Peter Block
George Brown
Andrew Calderwood
Dennis Casserley
Shirley Casserley
John Driver
Fiona Duck
Freda Earl
Victor Earl
John Goffey
Hazel Grimwood
Graham Hall
Bruce Jones
Elizabeth Jones
Bob Millard
Christine O'Callaghan
Clive Smith
Patrick Stileman
Mick Sullivan
Billy Wall
Chris Watt
Clive Weakley
Mary Weakley
Angela Wheeldon
Rina Wheeler

Apologies for Absence:

Philip Dobson
Peter & Betty Fowell
Olga Lassman
Peggy Picco
Pete Wheeler

Ted Dyer welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Sunnyside Rural Trust for the use of their hall.

1/02 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received (see above).

2/02 Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

3/02 Acting Chairman's report

Ted Dyer informed the meeting that during the course of the year Peter Chapman felt he had to resign his post of Chairman to the Society and Ted thanked him for his work on behalf of the Society.

Ted reported that there had been a number of clearance days and that several gardens had been cleared and some of these let to new tenants.

Another achievement for the Society was that a second hazel coppice, the Jubilee Coppice, was planted on Sunnyside New. The mayor attended and planted a tree. Both coppices are successful with no 'failures'. Sadly, Ken Harbord, who was the tenant of the Millennium Coppice and who also maintained it, died a few weeks ago.

The Open Day at the end of June attracted a number of visitors and raised funds for the Society, plus a number of additional tenancies. The barbecue was very successful and will be held again next year. We are also planning to hold an additional Open Day in the autumn to show our produce in full bloom.

We have also applied to the council for toilet facilities. Sunnyside Rural Trust has given us permission to use their facilities when they are open (week days 8.30 – 3.30). The committee want the council to provide a toilet and costings have been worked out (about £900) and have been given to the council. We need permission from Thames Water to connect to their main sewer.

During the year there have been thefts of produce and a number of sheds have been broken in to and tools stolen. As a result PC Jeff Ellis visited the allotments site to discuss security. A meeting was arranged for 29 October, attended by a number of tenants and Neighbourhood Watch representatives from the locality, to set up an Allotment Watch. Residents of Grantham Mews also decided to set up a Neighbourhood Watch. We need to put signs on gates and we have approached the council to provide these. We will also be arranging coding sessions so tenants can mark their own tools (maybe 2 Saturdays). We will also provide stickers to go on sheds saying that tools are security coded. An allotments watch newsletter is available to attendees.

4/02 Consider and approve the Society's accounts

John Savage thanked George Brown for auditing the accounts.

Over the last year subscriptions were slightly down, but donations up. The Open Day and David Lassman's wine made a good profit for the Society and the seed order made £41 profit. We spent £47 on the hazel coppice.

In all there was £78 excess of income over expenditure. It is agreed to keep subscription levels at £2. The benefits to paid up members are the seed scheme and the hire shop discount.

The accounts were approved.

5/02 Hazel Coppices

The hazel coppices have already been mentioned in the Acting Chairman's report. Diana Calderwood has offered to look after the Millennium Coppice (strimming etc). Clive and Adam have offered to attend to the Jubilee Coppice. Patrick is continuing to provide woodchip for mulching.

6/02 Clearance of Gardens

We are planning a number of clearance days and the first of these is on 7 December 2002. This will be on Sunnyside New to create a haul road to enable manure delivery (across the centre to Ivy House Lane). There will also be a recovery operation to tidy gardens cleared last time.

Following on from our display at the Community Fair there was some interest shown in taking on gardens.

This year a number of tenants have given up their gardens, but plot availability on Old is quite reduced. Ted introduced Rob Millard from Sunnyside Rural Trust who have taken on 26 gardens (top side of C Road, C 12 onwards and C9, 11 & 17). That leaves 1 garden vacant and 2 potential wildlife sites on C road, 1½ on B road and 4 on A road.

Prospective tenants are given a tour of the sites and a choice of plots.

7/02 Allotments' representative on Town Council's Allotments Committee

There is a vacancy for this post, due to Peter Chapman's resignation. This provides an opportunity for someone to take on this very important role, to represent the views of the Society. Ted has been covering the post, but does not wish to continue. Dennis Casserley expressed interest in taking on the role at a future time, when he feels he knows more about it.

Ted outlined the duties of the site rep. It is helpful if the site rep is a member of the Sunnyside Allotment Society committee to enable communication. Angela Wheeldon raised the issue of sharing tasks more amongst members and Jenny Sippings has drawn up a table suggesting how tasks could be allocated more equitably. This was handed out to those attending the meeting.

As no one volunteered to stand, Ted and Angela who are non-site specific members of the Town Council's Allotments Committee, will continue to cover the role until we get a volunteer. The existing site reps at Dellfield and Butts Meadow are continuing.

8/02 Open Day and barbecue

The Open Day and barbecue were very successful. They attracted a number of visitors including tenants from other sites. The Sunnyside Allotment Society does more advertising of allotments than the town council and the response we get helps other sites too. The organisational tasks were outlined and the following dates were agreed for next year:

29 June 2003

27 September 2003

Open Day and barbecue

Open Day

9/02 To receive any nominations for officers/committee members

No nominations were received before the meeting for the positions of officers, although John Savage and Jenny Sippings are willing to continue as Treasurer and Secretary. Angela proposed Bruce Jones as Chairman and he was elected unopposed. Ted Dyer is willing to continue as Vice-Chairman. The rest of the committee are also willing to stand again. Brenda Baynes was invited to join the committee last year to liaise for the newsletter. The untimely death of Ken Harbord leaves a vacancy on the committee. Daniel Bartlett volunteered his services.

10/02 Election of officers and committee

The committee elected is as follows:

Bruce Jones	Chairman	866078
Ted Dyer	Vice Chair	872684
Jenny Sippings	Secretary	865890
John Savage	Treasurer	873877
Daniel Bartlett		877109
Brenda Baynes		865853
Fiona Duck		874334
Graham Hall		873408
Patrick Stileman		874457
Clive Weakley		875373
Angela Wheeldon		874440

11/02 Any other business

Ken Harbord & Birchnell's Copse

Patrick Stileman would like to plant a tree in Ken's memory. Ted has already mentioned it to AMT as the council would need to approve. Patrick has spoken to Ken's daughter and apparently he had plans to plant some sweet chestnut trees in Birchnell's Copse as there are too many sycamores. Betty Patterson is concerned about the state of the paths in Birchnell's Copse and we will need to lend a hand to keep the paths clear (particularly of brambles). Clive Smith has volunteered to trim paths around the site. Patrick has offered his services to the council to become the new warden of Birchnell's Copse. Clive offered 2 trees to plant (there is a small area inside gateway). It was suggested we get a plaque for Ken and the Society would pay.

Promotion of Allotments

Daniel Bartlett asked whether we could raise awareness of allotments more. Ted talked about community fairs, Your Voice etc. We could have a website. A reporter from the Gazette visited last week to produce a feature on Sunnyside allotments to appear in the leisure section of the Gazette. There is also a notice near the Tea Hut. Jenny and Clive produced a promotional leaflet (needs modifying). We could put leaflets in the town council buildings and library. We could do a leaflet drop in Laing's new flats. Ted has tried to get a reference to allotments included in the official town guide which is handed out to new buyers by estate agents. Angela will raise with the AMT the council's aims and objectives with regard to allotments (strategy).

Christmas Drinks

Sunday 22 December 12.00 to 3.00 B15, mulled wine and mince pies. Please bring a contribution.

Allotments Regeneration Initiative

We were notified of this initiative by the NSALG and it was raised at the last AMT meeting. There are various proposals for the development of Sunnyside New e.g. wild flower meadow, orchard. Ted and Angela have given details of this initiative to the council, and we could apply for funding in the future.

Subscriptions

John invited members to pay their subscription fees.

Newsletter

Brenda asked for contributions for the newsletter to be delivered to 51 High Street. Ted thanked Brenda for her efforts.

The meeting closed at 11.45 a.m. Next year's AGM will take place on 29 November 2003.