

**MINUTES OF SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY'S  
16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
held on  
SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2012  
at  
SUNNYSIDE RURAL TRUST**

**Present:**

John Eaton (Chair)  
Lin Phillips (Vice-chair)  
Jenny Sippings (Secretary)  
John Powell (Treasurer)  
Ted Dyer  
Clive Smith  
Jane Dickenson  
Meg Robinson  
Geof Giles  
Simon Weightman  
Debbi Figueiredo  
Neil Kennedy  
Tricia Kennedy  
Tony Lightfoot  
Sarah Lightfoot  
Adrian Scarborough  
Andrew Calderwood  
John Goffey  
Annick Mulcahy  
Wendy Calder  
Richard Hackworth  
Christine Locke  
Phillipa Jones  
John Driver  
Andy James  
Ray Phipps  
Grace Phipps  
Kate Rankin  
Simon Heywood  
Geoff Halls

**Apologies for Absence:**

Bernard Axford  
Jean Axford  
Angela Wheeldon  
Hazel Grimwood  
Phil Biss  
Rachel Scott  
Chris O'Callahan  
Fiona Duck  
Christian Wallace  
Jenny Hackworth  
Diana Calderwood

### **1/12 To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received (see above).

### **2/12 To approve the minutes of the last AGM**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 26th November 2011 were confirmed and signed.

Matters arising: The SAS office is now completed. The various suggestions put forward at the 2011 meeting were considered by Committee, but not found practical to pursue.

### **3/12 To receive the Chairman's report**

John Eaton, as acting Chair, presented his report, summarised as follows:

- John thanked the members of the Committee; Freda as outgoing Chair, John for keeping the books, and volunteers to the working parties; Christine O'Callaghan for dealing with the seed orders, Chris Locke and Jenny Sippings for the newsletters, and all those who volunteered their time.
- Successful events through the year included the Jubilee Party on 5<sup>th</sup> June, Open Day on 12<sup>th</sup> August, Potato tasting day on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Thanks to volunteers and particularly to Angela for all their work on these events.
- Access and rights of way – the issue of neighbours' access via the allotments has been resolved by Council requiring permission to be sought for each specific purpose, eg for a delivery, or for reasons of health and safety. In relation to rights of way, Council will close access, apart from A Road which is a public right of way, for one day each year, to be determined by the Chair and varied each year.
- Working parties in the last year have included re-organising and repainting the office, repairing the gateways and footpaths, woodheap and coppice management. Leaves are available by the gate. More volunteers are needed for this winter's working parties; details are sent out by Jenny.
- Trees – Tenancy agreements state that only fruit trees kept on a managed site are allowed. A list has been produced of problematic trees, especially those large trees overshadowing neighbouring plots. Following negotiations, Council is to send a tree expert to examine them and advise on action required, ie removal of some while maintaining the character of the site and sustaining wildlife. A resolution is being sought about whether Council will use some of its allotment reserve funds for this purpose.
- Untidy plots – John Eaton and Jenny Sippings have toured the site and noted untidy plots, for notification to Council. Some tenants have had first letters (of 3), others have been vacated and re-let. Tenants having problems keeping their plots tidy should contact committee. John has been working to get the waiting list down, but still awaiting clarity from Council about outstanding applications.
- John requested tenants to give their email addresses to Jenny, in order to keep paper and post costs down. Also to make use of the Sunnyside Allotments website, which is [www.sunnysideallotments.org.uk](http://www.sunnysideallotments.org.uk)

- The 2013 calendar is now available, cost £6, and available from Jenny. Thanks to Jenny and team for the work involved in producing the calendars.

#### **4/12 To consider and approve the Society's accounts**

John Powell, Treasurer, presented the annual accounts, which were unanimously approved (proposed by Ray Phipps, seconded by Richard Hackworth).

#### **5/12 To receive any nominations for officers/committee members**

The following were nominated as officers:

Chair: John Eaton  
 Vice-Chair: Lin Phillips  
 Treasurer: John Powell  
 Secretary: Jenny Sippings

Nominations for the committee: Chris Locke, Annick Mulcahy, and Angela Wheeldon (current members) and Wendy Calder (N4) and Andy James (N57), (new members).

Those standing down, Andy Walker, John Driver, and Simon Weightman, were thanked for their contributions, as was Freda Earl, standing down from the Chairmanship of SAS for her years of considerable hard work and commitment.

#### **6/12 To elect of Officers and Committee**

Those nominated were all elected to the committee. It was noted that members are welcome to attend and observe committee meetings, and that proposals may be sent to the Chair in advance.

#### **7/12 To elect Allotments' representative on Town Council's Allotment Management Team**

John Eaton was elected as the Site representative, with Lin Phillips as Deputy.

#### **8/12 To consider future developments**

- Trees – as discussed above
- Occasional use of a skip. In order to minimise the likelihood of a skip being filled with unsuitable items such as metal or weeds and turf as last time, it was agreed to identify a spot for tenants to bring metals, plastics and rubber on a designated date, probably a working party date, so that the work of removing the collection to the dump would be included in the day's work agenda. Committee to publicise the date.
- Northbridge Road Waste Centre is reluctant to accept allotment waste. Committee to raise this issue and the Council's green policy at AMT.
- Gates to be kept shut to discourage fly-tipping.

- Paths – some are being eroded by tenants digging into them, making them dangerous. Paths between allotments are the responsibility of tenants and should be maintained at a width of 27". Fences should not be erected hard against paths, causing difficulty with moving. Clive to write an article for the newsletter on this issue.

## 9/12 Any other business

- The meeting agreed to amend SAS rules, by passing a resolution to amend Rule 6. This increases the committee's power to charge tenants' individual subscription to SAS from a current maximum of £3 to £5 (proposed by Ray Phipps, seconded by Clive Smith). The rule now reads *Subscriptions: Members shall be invited to pay an annual subscription of such sum not exceeding £5.00 per annum as may be determined by the Committee for administration expenses.*

This is in the likelihood that NSALG (National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners) will be increasing their charge to SAS; however it is not envisaged that tenant's membership fee will actually be increased to £5 at this time. At present, £2 of the annual £3 goes towards Sunnyside's annual group affiliation to NSALG. This is a voluntary membership. John Powell urged tenants to access the NSALG website for a wealth of advice and information, which is at [www.nsalg.co.uk](http://www.nsalg.co.uk)

- Events for 2013 – Open Day – last day of National Allotments Day, on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August. Working parties, first Sunday of month from January to March 2013 (January's event on the second Sunday) and October 2013 and November 2013 Christmas drinks party on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2013.

The meeting closed at 11.45am.

# SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF INCOME&amp;EXPENDITURE YEAR ENDING 31ST OCTOBER 2012

INCOME

<u>SUBSCRIPTIONS</u>	267.-(198.)
<u>DONATIONS</u>	11.-
<u>SEED SCHEME</u>	
ORDERS	730.14(641.)
COST TO SAS	624.69(608.)
PROFIT	105.45( 33.)
<u>CALENDAR</u>	
SALES	643.50
LESS COST	- 387.80
PROFIT	255.70(246)
<u>MATERIALS&amp;PRODUCE</u>	
SALES	139.60(204)

OPEN DAY

REFRESHMENTS	176. (333)
PRODUCE	289.23(275)
RAFFLE (DONATED)	117.- (140)
TOTAL INCOME	582.23
LESS EXPENSES	-30.96
OPEN DAY PROFIT	551.27(680)
-	
YEARS INCOME	1330.02
EXPENDITURE	-11 51.71
YEARS SURPLUS	£ 178.31(393.)

NB (xxxxx) 2011/12 figuresEXPENDITURE

<u>PUBLIC LIABILITY</u>	
<u>INSURANCE</u>	68.90(75.)
<u>SECRETARIAL</u>	34.78(65)
<u>NSALG</u>	164.-- (122)
<u>MAINTENANCE</u>	
materials & signage	240.16(269)
<u>NEWSLETTER</u>	46.20(75.)
<u>HOSPICE DONATION</u>	117.-(180)
<u>QUEENS JUBILEE</u>	
CATERING	511.17
INCOME	- 90.-
<u>NET COST</u>	421.17
<u>SUNDRIES</u>	59.50

YEARS EXPENDITURE £1151.71FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FUNDS HELD 31/10/11	3758.21
SURPLUS 31/10/12	+178.31
FUNDS HELD 31/10/12	£3936.52
HELD AT BANK	3895.98
CASH	40.54
<u>FUNDS 31/10/12</u>	<u>£ 3936.52</u>

AFTER AN INDEPENDENT INSPECTION  
OF THE BOOKS AND SUPPORTING  
DOCUMENTS I CAN CONFIRM THAT  
THE ABOVE FIGURES ACCURATELY  
REFLECT THE SOCIETIES FINANCIAL  
POSITION AS AT 31ST OCTOBER 2012

DAVID THOMAS